









## Consignees.

[illegible]







## TELEGRAMS.

[Reuter's.]

## Disestablishment of the Church of England.

LONDON, 28th February.

The House of Commons has adopted a resolution, by 198 to 90, expressing the desirability of disestablishing and disendowing the Church of England.

Mr. Balfour said that personally he believed the Church, freed from the trammels of State, would be restored to its position of spiritual authority, but the Government did not intend to assume the responsibility of the resolution; their hands were already full.

## The Army Estimates.

The discussion on the Army estimates centered on Mr. Haldane's proposals, the details of which are criticised, but are generally well received.

Later.

## Anglo-Russian Relations.

Reuter's Agency learns that, while it is premature to indicate the definite lines of any Anglo-Russian agreement, the negotiations are making satisfactory progress, of which one tangible result is the joint offer of a loan to Persia. The non-acceptance of the loan does not affect the attitude of the two Powers one to the other. The progress of the Anglo-Russian negotiations naturally creates an atmosphere of conciliation which extends to the Russo-Japanese negotiations.

## CHINA &amp; MANILA STRAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers on Wednesday, 13th inst., at 11 o'clock a.m., is as follows:—

Amended we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The net profit is \$27,365.57 which is proposed to be appropriated as follows, viz:—

To place to Reserve Fund ..... \$1,000.00  
To pay a dividend of \$1 per share ..... 26,000.00  
To carry forward to the credit of next year's account ..... 365.57

The S. S. *Rubi* and *Zufri* ran regularly and very satisfactorily throughout the year, but both passengers and cargo were much scarcer than before. Our gross income shows a very heavy falling off and it has only been by exercising the strictest economy and cutting down expenses that we are able to show a surplus.

## CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. D. E. Brown resigned on leaving the Colony, and Dr. J. W. Noble was invited to take his place on the Consulting Committee. In accordance with the articles of association Messrs. N. A. Siebs, H. P. White, A. V. Apcar and Dr. J. W. Noble retire but offer themselves for re-election.

## AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gordin, the latter having been asked to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. A. O'D. Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gordin are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES &amp; CO., General Managers.

Hongkong 25th February, 1907.

## PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Consulting committee's fees ..... \$2,500.00  
Auditors' fees ..... 400.00  
Interest ..... 9,835.03  
Charges ..... 668.78  
Amount written off as depreciation ..... 41,027.37  
Balance ..... 27,365.57

Balance brought forward from 1905 ..... \$81,546.75  
Exchange ..... 8.88  
Profit on working account S.S. *Rubi* and *Zufri* ..... 74,974.42  
\$11,546.75

## BALANCE.

Authorized Capital  
30,000 shares @ \$15 each \$750,000.00  
Issued and fully paid  
25,000 shares @ \$15 each ..... \$650,000.00  
Calls on shares forfeited and belong to the Company ..... 160.00  
Peterson Fund ..... 6,000.00  
Underwriting Account ..... 30,076.29  
Sundry creditors ..... 28,235.04  
Company's liabilities ..... 131,978.56  
Balance of profit and loss account ..... 27,365.57  
\$875,735.50

## Assets.

Value of steamer *Rubi* & *Zufri* ..... 790,000.00  
Less depreciation ..... 40,000.00  
Value of Hongkong buoy and mooring ..... 2,079.85  
Less depreciation ..... 129.85  
Value of Manila buoy and mooring ..... 63.46  
Less depreciation ..... 40.46  
Value of Amoy buoy and mooring ..... 2,258.50  
Less depreciation ..... 158.50  
Value of stores on hand ..... 5,738.56  
Less depreciation ..... 338.56  
Value of coal on hand ..... 4,937.50  
Proportion of premium on current policies ..... 24,861.03  
Sundry debtors ..... 36,840.74  
Outstanding freight 1906 ..... 41,430.30  
Cash and bank balances ..... 2,251.93  
\$875,735.50

## SUICIDE ON THE HILLSIDE.

CHINESE WOMAN FOUND HANGING FROM TREE.

A young Chinese woman, who was later identified as Hung Chuang Tai, was found at ten o'clock yesterday morning hanging to the end of a piece of rope on the hillside at Ma-tau-wai, Hung-hong. The woman's body was found by a Chinese policeman, who was on duty at the time. One end of the rope was attached to the branch of a tree; the other end was knotted securely beneath her chin. Her legs were but a few inches above the ground, which explains the fact that the woman had evidently stood upon a stool, adjusted the knot and kicked the support from under her. She was cut down and removed to the Kowloon mortuary, where it was certified that she had died of strangulation. No definite reason for the suicide has been offered the Hongkong police as yet, but there is one theory for the woman ending her life in such a manner—and that is domestic troubles.

## CLIMBING A LADDER OF KNIVES.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CHINESE FESTIVAL.

By Frederic W. Kroecker, F.Z.S., Curator of the Perak State Museum.

From a Western point of view a Chinaman is a Chinaman—an individual with a yellow skin, almond eyes, shaven forehead, and a pigtail hanging down on his back. On the other hand, if for one moment we could stand in the position of the Celestial and look through Eastern spectacles, we should not see any distinction between English, French and German, any more than through Western spectacles we see the great Chinese nation divided into numerous sub-nations speaking different dialects, living under different conditions and affecting different customs. It is the same with religion; as the Orient sees the whole of the white people following, to them, one mystic belief, so do we look upon the Chinese solely as a nation of idolaters and devil-worshippers, oblivious of the fact that there are as many religious creeds and beliefs permeating the Chinese Empire as there are distinct languages.

Considering the profound antiquity of the Chinese Empire, the existence to-day of primitiveness in most things Chinese is not only surprising, but is difficult of realization by the civilized Westerner. We in the West are accustomed to look upon the idea of people voluntarily suffering mortal pain by way of propitiation for the sins of their fellow-men as a philosophy practised only in the past. Yet in this year of grace 1907 this custom, tinged with a peculiar savagery, is still prevalent in the Far East. It is disguised, perhaps, and its intrinsic meaning partially hidden, under the general term of tanaquism—thanks possibly to the superficial knowledge of customs flourishing of the occult to be gained from the writings of the ubiquitous globe-trotter.

Amongst the Chinese there are still in existence various forms of self-torture and methods of voluntarily inflicting bodily pain and discomfort to atone for the sins of others and to make peace with the powers that be. Of these the nail-bite, perhaps, the most horrible to behold, co-sisting as it does of a wooden bed thickly covered with nails, fixed in with the points upwards. At the head is a raised portion forming a pillow, also studded with nails. The knife-chain is another instrument of torture; the very sight of which is enough to make the European's blood run cold. It takes the form of a straight backed arm-chair, furnished with long blades where-ever the body and limbs touch the chair. On the back the knives are placed horizontally; on the seat, as well as at the base, for the feet to rest upon, vertically; while each arm is made of a similar blade, along the edge of which the sinner's arms rest. All these blades are sharpened with a whetstone before use.

The photographs accompanying this article illustrate part of an extraordinary ceremonial performance which took place in Tai-ping, one of the oldest Chinese mining centres in the Federated Malay States; as recently as the end of 1905—a ceremony which for want of a better name, I have called "Climbing a Ladder of Knives." The same sort of blades as used in the knife-chairs are here utilized to form a ladder consisting of twenty-four rungs, each formed by a long, keen blade, edge uppermost. I can guarantee the sharpness of every rung, for each was critically examined by me before the ladder was hoisted into an upright position. The keenness of the blades, however, can almost be seen in one of the pictures which shows the three bottom rungs of the ladder; and, incidentally, the devotee dismounting after having completed the journey to the top and down again.

On the lowest rung of the ladder the necks of two live domestic hens were cut, after which sacrifice the self-installed intercessor for the people knelt at the foot of the ladder and the soles of his bare feet were anointed by a Chinese priest. Before rising, the same priest solemnly tossed up two lozenge-shaped pieces of wood about six inches in length, flat on one side and slightly rounded on the other.

This performance he repeated two or three times, muttering a prayer the while, until they fell on the ground in a certain position, when the omens being apparently auspicious—the kneeling man immediately arose and commenced the ascent, climbing slowly from one keen knife-edge to the next, while the great crowd watched in awe-struck silence. The ascent took much longer than the descent, presumably because the man adopted the principle of placing one foot firmly on the next blade before throwing up to it the weight of his body, an action necessitated in dragging up the other foot.

What ever device or method he adopted, however, to the terror of the onlookers, he arrived down safely without a cut or scratch on either hands or feet, as I can personally testify.

Arrived at the top on the ladder the man sat down on a little platform, and there he stayed for the best part of an hour blowing a small silver trumpet, singing chants, and praying for the people below, whilst at the back of the structure a number of women fired crackers, burned joss-sticks, incense, and imitation money, and prayed for the safety of the man who was apparently voluntarily risking so much for their sake. The whole ceremony was peculiarly weird and impressive, and it is safe to say that few white men would venture to undertake a barefoot climb to the top of that knife-edged ladder, while it is practically certain that any who had the temerity to try would be injured.

A still more bloodthirsty-looking arrangement, and warranted to inspire even greater awe, is the bill hook or sickle ladder seen in the last photograph, where well sharpened sickles take the place of the straight bladed rungs.

Much the same sort of performance is gone through in connection with this as with the knife-ladder. It will be seen, however, by referring to the last illustration, that instead of the devotee clutching the blade above with his hands, as in the knife-ladder, there is a nail tied to each side of the upright pole for him to draw himself up by. At the foot of this ladder the ceremony before the ascent was practically identical with that already described, excepting that two ducks were sacrificed in place of the chickens. In this case I could not see that the climber received the slightest injury, though the keenness of the sickles was beyond doubt.

The Chinese are indeed a remarkable people; and this is not the least remarkable of their many strange festivals.

## CHINESE RAILWAY.

RELIABLE GUIDE TO FOREIGN INVESTORS.

The following is an extract from an article in the *Financial Review of Reviews* by Mr. George Jamieson, formerly British Consul-General at Shanghai and one of the leading authorities on things Chinese:—

As this article deals mainly with the public issues of the Chinese Government as desirable investments, it is not necessary to do more than touch on the Boxer indemnity, which added another 67 millions sterling to the debt of China. No loan was raised to pay this indemnity; it is simply a recognised debt due by China to the Powers jointly, who divide the sum as received among themselves in certain proportions to which China is not a party. It in no way affects the security of the loans existing at the date (1901) of the arrangement, and, as we have already said, care was even taken that the double charge should not press unduly hard on China at the out-start, the payments being so arranged that as the loan service diminished the indemnity service increased, until both are simultaneously extinguished by 39 equal annual payments ending in the year 1940.

## GOOD INVESTMENTS.

The loans so far raised by China for railway construction are given in the list below. They are all guaranteed by the Imperial Government of China, and are further specifically secured by a mortgage of the particular railway in respect to which they were issued.

British five per cent., £2,000,000, Railway—Peking to Shanghai-Kuan.  
Belgian five per cent., Fcs. 112,500,000, Railway—Peking to Hankow.  
Russian five per cent., Fcs. 40,000,000, Railway—Chengting to Taiyuefu.  
Belgian five per cent., Fcs. 40,000,000, Railway—Kaifeng to Hoonan.  
British five per cent., (issued to Peking Syndicate) £3,000,000, Railway—Yachow to Chingchow.  
British five per cent., £3,250,000, Railway—Shanghai to Nanking.  
British five per cent., (about to be issued) £5,000,000, Railway—Canton to Kowloon-Hongkong.

All of these may be recommended as good investments, especially the first and last two. The Imperial Railway of North-China, on which the first is secured, has recently been earning, including the extension to New-chwang, as much as £100,000 a month gross, against which the loan charge is a mere trifle.

## SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY.

The Shanghai-Nanking Railway has been recently opened as far as Soochow, and will probably be completed by the end of next year. No details of traffic earnings have yet been published, but it is understood that the prospects are excellent.

The line passes through rich and populous districts, and although it will meet with competition from the water navigation both on the Yangtze and on the inland canals, yet in the opinion of those competent to judge it will easily pay its 5 per cent., and probably at no distant date will earn a considerable surplus of which the concessionaries receive one fifth. These surplus profits, however, do not attach to the bonds, but go to the holders of "Net Profit Certificates," a portion of which have been put on the market. One such net profit certificate of the nominal value of £100 was issued for each £500 Bonds, and entitles the holder to receive his proportionate share of surplus profits, if there be any, during the term of the concession, that is for a period of fifty years. The Chinese Government has the right to redeem them at any time on payment of the face value, but it is not obliged to do so. If unredeemed they expire with the concession.

LAM POX, a rich man, of the name of "Pox," was this morning, at the Police Court, sentenced to fifteen days' hard labour and four hours' stocks for robbing Mann-Wissmann, a petty officer, B.M., of \$15, on Thursday night, at Wanchai. Wissmann and two other shipmates engaged rich men and drove to Wanchai. On arriving at their destination, Wissmann took out his pocket book to pay his rich men when his coolie (the defendant) snatched the purse, handed it to another rich man, who got away. Accused made no attempt to follow him, but was seized by Wissmann and his chums. The money has not been recovered.

## COMMERCIAL.

TO-DAY'S INTELLIGENCE.

Buyers:—National Banks \$51, Union Insurance \$30, China Fires \$98, Raubs \$8, Shanghai Docks \$11, 107, Hongkong Lands \$107, China-Providents \$9.80, Ices \$240 ex div, A. S. Watsons, \$12, Powells \$71, Steam Laundries \$12.

Sellers:—Hongkong Banks \$895, Canton Insurance \$395, Hongkong Fires \$385, Indo-China \$86, China and Manilla \$20, Douglas \$36, China Sugars \$126, Hongkong Docks \$134 ex div, Kowloon Wharves \$94, West Point \$50, Humphreys Estates \$114, China Borneo \$10, Dairy Farms \$161, Cements \$211, Electric \$16, Ropes \$11, China Lights \$91.

Sales:—Canton Insurance \$395, Hongkong Fires \$385, Hongkong Hotels \$123.  
Nominal:—Macau Steamboats \$30, Shell Transports \$31, Hongkong Wharves \$11, 232 (old) \$11, 232 (new), Cottons \$12, Tramways \$215.

## WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Rudorff & Co. write on 1st inst.:—The market continues dull and a very quiet week has to be recorded.

Banks.—Sales have been effected of Hongkong and Shanghai Banks at \$89, at which rate more shares can be had.

Marine Insurance.—Cantons have sellers at \$295. Unions have changed hands at \$830 closing in demand at this figure.

Fire Insurance.—Hongkong Fires have found buyers at \$380, and there are offering at \$385. China Fires have been fixed at \$98 and are wanted at this price.

Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamships remain steady at \$30 at which rate sales have taken place. Indos continue out of favour at \$85. Shell Transports are steady at \$30 and \$20 respectively.

Refineries.—China Sugars have declined to \$125. Lufans are unchanged.

Mining.—Chinese Engineerings have improved to \$11.13 and sales have taken place at this rate. Raubs are wanted at \$8. We are informed by private telegraphic advices from Singapore, that the crushing for the past four weeks yielded 1,162 ozs. gold, from 5,624 tons stone.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves are offering at \$714. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quoted \$114 ex the dividend of \$6 paid on the 26th inst. Shanghai Docks have declined to \$15, at which rate shares have been sold in the North. Hongkong Wharves have improved to \$11.23 with buyers for the old shares, and the new shares are quoted at \$125.

Land, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$121. Hongkong Lands have improved to \$107, with sales at this rate, and close in request. Humphreys Estates are procurable at \$114. Shanghai Lands are a shade firmer at \$11.10. West Points are on offer at \$50.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons have changed hands at \$12. Ewos are the same at \$12.75. Lau Kung Mows are weaker at \$11.10. Sai Chees are quoted at \$11.40.

Miscellaneous.—China Providents are wanted at \$85. Green Island Cements have been done at \$1.4, and more shares can be got at this rate. Ices have advanced to \$140, at which rate they are in demand. Langkats are stronger at \$12.63. Sumatras have improved to \$11.10 with buyers. Central Stores remain unchanged, with buyers at \$161. The report of the directors of this company for the year ending December 31st, 1906, has been issued to shareholders. Including the sum of \$4,719.22 shared forward from last account, and after allowing for directors' and auditors' fees, \$1,770.28 and loss on Municipal and Land Debentures, \$1,302.77 the net profit for the year amounts to \$5,697.56 which it is proposed should be appropriated in the following manner:

To allow for depreciation on furniture, and alterations and improvements, the sum of \$1,000. To provide \$2,000 for bad and doubtful debts and to transfer \$1,000 to sinking fund. To pay a dividend of \$1.80 per share, absorbing \$10,800, leaving a balance of \$9,178.50 to be carried forward in 1907 account. It is notified that at an extraordinary general meeting to be held at the Palace Hotel (Shanghai) immediately after the ordinary general meeting of the company on Friday, the 8th of March, the following resolutions will be brought forward:—

That the capital of the company be increased to £75,000 by the creation of twenty thousand additional ordinary shares of £5 each to be called "further new shares." That 10,000 of such further new shares be offered at par in the first instance to the members of the company being on the register on the 30th day of April, 1907, in the proportion of one further new share for every three existing shares held by them respectively. That such further new shares shall, from date of payment of interest and dividend, rank for all respects pari passu with the existing new issue of the company. That the remaining 10,000 of the 20,000 further new shares shall be issued at such time and upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem expedient.

## TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE.

Selling.  
London—Bank T.T. .... 2/2 11/16  
Do. demand ..... 2/2 11/16  
France—4 months' sight ..... 2/3 11/16  
America—Bank T.T. .... 2/3 11/16  
Germany—Bank T.T. .... 2/3 11/16  
India T.T. .... 2/3 11/16  
Shanghai—Bank T.T. .... 2/3 11/16  
Singapore T.T. .... 2/3 11/16  
Japan—Bank T.T. .... 2/3 11/16  
Hank T.T. .... 2/3 11/16

Buying.  
4 months' sight L/C ..... 2/3 11/16  
6 months' sight L/C ..... 2/3 11/16  
30 days' sight San Francisco & New York ..... 2/3 11/16  
4 months' sight do. .... 2/3 11/16  
30 days' sight Sydney and Melbourne ..... 2/3 11/16  
4 months' sight France ..... 2/3 11/16  
6 months' sight do. .... 2/3 11/16  
4 months' sight Germany ..... 2/3 11/16  
Bar Silver ..... 2/3 11/16  
Bank of England rate ..... 2/3 11/16  
Sovereigns ..... 2/3 11/16

## To-day's Advertisements.

THE TRADE MARKS ORDINANCE, 1898.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARK.

NOTICE is hereby given that Messrs. SELLE & KARY, of No. 11, Holmarkt Strasse, Berlin, Germany, Manufacturers, have, on the 25th day of January, 1907, applied for the Registration in Hongkong in the Register of Trade Marks, of the following Trade Mark:—

The representation or illustration of the Eastern and Western hemispheres across which appear the names "Selle & Kary" the whole enclosed in a diamond above which is printed the word "Nigger".

in the name of SELLE & KARY, who claim to be the proprietors thereof.

The Trade Mark has been used by the applicants since the year 1885 in respect of the following goods:—

CHEMICAL PREPARATIONS ESPECIALLY: BOOT POLISHES IN CLASS 50.  
A facsimile of the Trade Mark can be seen at the Office of the Colonial Secretary of Hongkong and also at the Office of the Undersigned. Dated the 1st day of March, 1907.

JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER, Solicitors for the Applicants, 8, Des Voeux Road Central, Hongkong.

THE HONGKONG HOTEL CO., LD.

NOTICE.

THE ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Company's Hotel on WEDNESDAY, the 6th March, 1907, at 12.30 P.M., for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts of the Company to the 31st December, 1906, with the Report of the Directors, and to discuss any matter that may be competently brought before the Meeting.

The TRANSFER BOOK of the Company will be CLOSED from the 28th February to the 6th March, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,  
G. MOONEY, Secretary.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1907.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

AT the Undersigned's Sales Room, 2, Zetland Street, on TUESDAY, the 5th March, 1907, at 11 A.M., MISCELLANEOUS GOODS, including CIGARETTES, BICYCLES, AND NEW TYPEWRITING MACHINES. TERMS:—As usual.

F. KIENE, Auctioneer, Telephone No. 574. Hongkong, 2nd March, 1907.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, FOR ACCOUNT OF THE ESTATE OF CAPTAIN FRANK WARRER, R.A., Deceased, on WEDNESDAY, the 6th March, 1907, at 11 A.M., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Voeux Road, corner of Ice House Street, THE GOODS AND CHATTELS, comprising:—

TRAVELLING BAGS AND TRUNKS, CLOTHING, CHEST, FURNITURE, WASHSTAND, BOOKS, &c., &c., &c.; One GENT'S BICYCLE and One 12-BORE FOWLING PIECE. TERMS:—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH, Auctioneers, Hongkong, 2nd March 1907.

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE Steamship

"PRINZ LUDWIG" having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before FRIDAY, the 1st March at 5 P.M.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 8th March, will be subject to rent.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 8th March, at 9.30 A.M.

All Claims must reach us before the 15th March, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned.

NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD, MELCHERS & Co., Agents, Hongkong, 1st March, 1907.

STEAM TO CANTON.

THE New Twin Screw Steel Steamer

"KWONG TUNG" 1,138 Tons. W. WALKER Leaves Hongkong for Canton on each Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, at 9 every evening. Leaves Canton for Hongkong on each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, about 5.30 o'clock every evening.

This Fine New Steamer has an excellent Accommodation for First Class Passengers and is lit throughout by Electricity. Electric Fans in First Class Cabins.

Passage Fare—Single Journey ..... \$4.  
Meals ..... \$1 each.  
The Company's Wharf is situated in front of the New Western Market, opposite the old Harbour Office.

YUEN ON S.S. CO., LD., No. 8, Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 14th January, 1907.

## Intimations

THE ROBINSON PIANO CO., LD.

TALKING MACHINES AND RECORDS.

New Stock just arrived

LARGE AND VARIED

ASSORTMENT

MUSIC

Comic Opera Scores

and Dance Music.

RECEIVED BY EVERY MAIL.

Hongkong, 29th November, 1906.

A GREAT REPUTATION IS ONLY WON BY GREAT ACHIEVEMENT.

D&M CALLUM'S

PERFECTION SCOTCH WHISKY

HAS A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE OF QUALITY, FOUNDED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF ITS CONSUMERS.

That is Why WHICH ONCE TRIED IS ALWAYS PREFERRED TO OTHER BRANDS SIMPLY A CASE OF QUALITY & FLAVOUR.

H. PRIOR & Co.

SOLE AGENTS.

Per Case 12 Bottles

\$16.00.

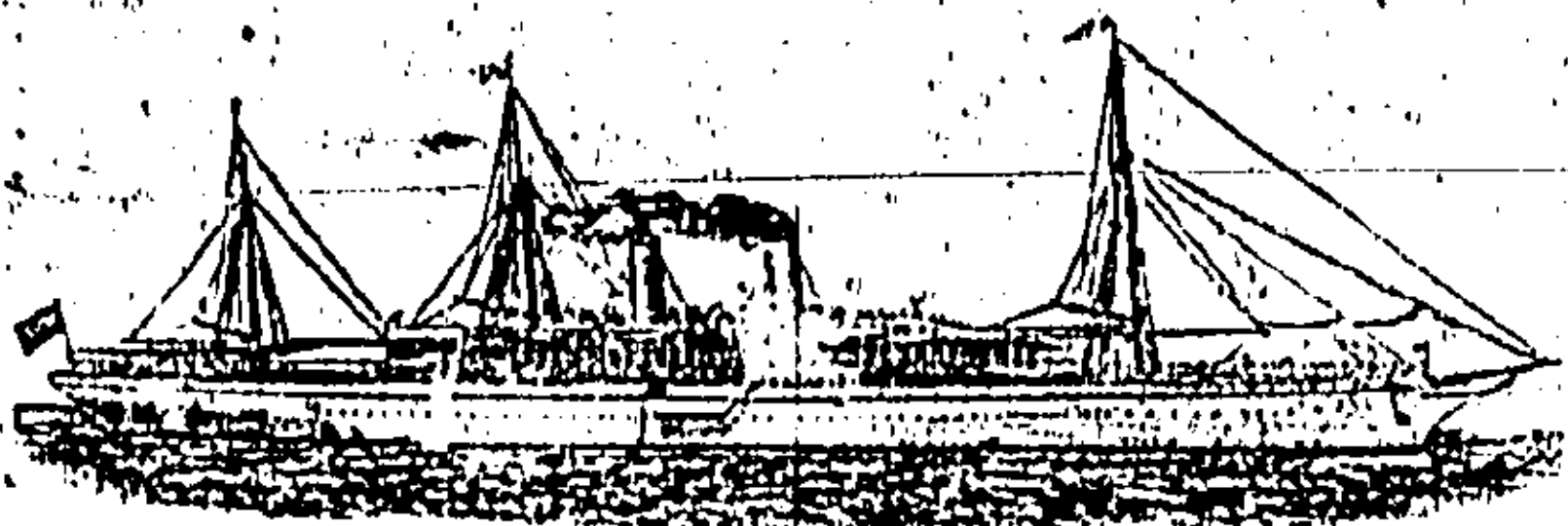
10 per cent. Discount allowed until further notice.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1907.



Shipping—Steamers.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COY.'S ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP LINE.



Luxury—Speed—Punctuality.

The only Line that maintains a Regular Schedule Service of under Eleven Days across the Pacific is the "Empress Line." Saving 5 to 10 Days Ocean Travel.

11 Days YOKOHAMA to VANCOUVER. 18 Days HONGKONG to VANCOUVER.

PROPOSED SAILINGS.	(Subject to Alteration).
R.M.S.	Tons
"EMPRESS OF JAPAN".....	4,000
"TARTAR".....	4,425
"EMPRESS OF CHINA".....	6,000
"ATHENIAN".....	3,882
"EMPRESS OF INDIA".....	6,000
"MONTEAGLE".....	6,163

THE Quickest route to CANADA, UNITED STATES and EUROPE, calling at HANG-HAI, NAGASAKI, (through the INLAND SEA OF JAPAN), KOBE, YOKOHAMA, and VICTORIA, B.C., connecting at VANCOUVER with a Special Mail Express, and at St. John, N.B., with the Company's New Patriotic "EMPRESS" Steamships, 14,500 tons register. The through transit to LIVERPOOL being 24 days, from YOKOHAMA, and 29 days from HONGKONG.

"Hongkong to London, 1st Class..... via St. Lawrence Ldo. via New York Ldo. Hongkong to London, Intermediate on Steamers, and 1st Class on Railways..... L40. L42. L42. Passengers only, at intermediate rates, affording superior accommodation for that class. Passengers Booked through to all points and AROUND THE WORLD. SPECIAL RATES (First class only) granted to Missionaries, Members of the Naval, Military, Diplomatic and Civil Services, and to European Officials in the Service of China and Japan Governments. For further information, Maps, Routes, Hand Books, Rates of Freight and Passage, apply to D. W. CRADDOCK, General Traffic Agent for China, Corner Pedder Street and Praya, Hongkong, 27th February, 1907.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

(PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

For	Steamship	On
SINGAPORE and SOERABAYA.....	FOOKSANG	TUESDAY, 5th Mar., 3 P.M.
TIENTSIN via SWATOW & CHEFOO.....	CHU-SHANG	WEDNESDAY, 6th Mar., Noon.
SHANGHAI.....	CHU-SHANG	THURSDAY, 7th Mar., daylight.
SANDAKAN.....	MAUSANG	FRIDAY, 8th Mar., 4 P.M.
MANILA.....	LOONGSANG	FRIDAY, 8th Mar., 4 P.M.

\* These Steamers have superior accommodation for First-class Passengers, and are fitted throughout with Electric Light.

† Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Chefoo, Tientsin, and Yangtze Ports. ‡ Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to Kudat, Lahad Datu, Simporna, Tawau, Usukan, Jesselton and Labuan.

For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Managers. Hongkong, 2nd March, 1907.

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
MANILA.....	"TEAN"	5th March, 4 p.m.
TIENTSIN.....	"HUICHOW"	8th "
MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, PORT DARWIN, THURSDAY ISLAND, COOK TOWN, CAIRNS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE, SYDNEY & MELBOURNE	"TIANAN"	8th "
NEWCHWANG.....	"NANCHANG"	9th "
YOKOHAMA and KOBE.....	"CHANGSHA"	18th "
CEBU and ILOILO.....	"KAIFONG"	19th "

\* The Attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by these steamers, which are fitted throughout with Electric Light. Unrivalled table. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

† Taking Cargo on through Bills of Lading to all Yangtze and Northern China Ports. ‡ Taking Cargo and Passengers at through Rates for all New Zealand and other Australian Ports.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, AGENTS. Hongkong, 2nd March, 1907.

HONGKONG—MANILA.

Highest Class, newest, fastest and most luxurious Steamers between Hongkong and Manila.—Saloon amidships—Electric Light—Perfect Cuisine—Surgeon and Stewardess carried.—All the most up-to-date arrangements for comfort of Passengers.

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Steamship.	Tons.	Captain.	For	Sailing Dates.
KUMI.....	2540	R. Almond.....	MANILA	SATURDAY, 9th Mar., at Noon.
ZAMRO.....	2540	R. Rodger.....	"	SATURDAY, 16th Mar., at Noon.

For Freight or Passage, apply to SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., GENERAL MANAGERS. Hongkong, 2nd March 1907.

HONGKONG—NEW YORK.

AMERICAN ASIATIC STEAMSHIP CO.

FOR NEW YORK via PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL. (With Liberty to Call at the Malabar Coast).

Steamship "LOWTHER CASTLE"..... The end of January.

For Freight and further information, apply to SHEWAN, TOMES & CO., General Agents. Hongkong, 27th February, 1907.

Shipping—Steamers.

HAMBURG-AMERIKA LINIE.

PASSENGER SERVICE.

BY the new steamers "RHEINANIA," "HABSBURG," and "HOHENSTAUFEN." These steamers offer to the public the highest comfort yet attained in ocean travelling. They are especially built for the tropics with very large well ventilated cabins, amidships, lighted throughout by electricity, fans provided in each cabin. The berths are not arranged one above the other as it has been the fashion hitherto, but the staterooms closely resemble ordinary sleeping rooms on shore, the berths standing like beds at either side of the cabin. As a novelty, a number of cabins are provided for single passengers. These steamers call at NAPLES and FLYMOUTH. In addition to the above steamers, the s.s. "SILASIA" and "SCANDIA" carry first class passengers. Return Tickets issued at reduced Rates, through tickets issued to NEW YORK via NAPLES, SOUTHAMPTON and HAMBURG.

NEXT SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

Outward.	Homeward.
FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.	FOR THE STRAITS, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUEZ, PORT SAID, NAPLES, FLYMOUTH, HAVRE AND HAMBURG.
HABSBURG..... 4th March.	SCANDIA..... 16th March.
RHEINANIA..... 3rd April.	SLAVONIA..... 22nd March.
HOHENSTAUFEN..... 2nd May.	HABSBURG..... 5th April.
SILASIA..... 2nd June.	RHEINANIA..... 3rd May.
SCANDIA..... 2nd July.	HOHENSTAUFEN..... 29th May.

\* Call at Lisbon. † Call at Marseilles. Hongkong, 2nd March, 1907.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Company's Steamship

"ERNEST SIMONS,"

Captain Girard, will be despatched as above, on MONDAY, the 4th March.

For Freight or Passage, apply to G. DE CHAMPEAUX, Agent.

Hongkong, 25th February, 1907.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE

TO NEW YORK,

VIA PORTS AND SUEZ CANAL.

(With Liberty to Call at Malabar Coast).

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

FOR NEW YORK.

S.S. "MUNCASTER CASTLE"..... 12th March.

S.S. "LOWTHER CASTLE"..... 21st March.

\* This steamer has excellent Saloon Accommodation for First-class Passengers at moderate rates.

For Freight and further information, apply to D. W. CRADDOCK & Co., LIMITED, Agents.

Hongkong, 29th January, 1907.

To Let.

TO LET.

OFFICES in KING'S BUILDING and YORK BUILDING.

GODOWNS on PRAYA EAST.

A HOUSE in CLIFTON GARDENS, Conduit Road.

A HOUSE in WONG-NEI-CHONG ROAD.

FLATS in MORETON TERRACE.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1907.

TO LET.

NO. 1, WESTEND TERRACE, Shameen, Canton.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1907.

TO LET.

A HOUSE in KNOTSFORD TERRACE, Kowloon.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1907.

TO LET.

IMMEDIATELY the spacious premises on the Ground Floor of No. 7, PEDDER STREET, at present occupied by Messrs. HARRIS KEENEY & Co., Ltd.

Apply to—

GILMAN & Co.

Hongkong, 22nd January, 1907.

TO LET.

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES at PRAYA EAST, near East Point.

Apply to—

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.

Hongkong, 2nd January, 1907.

TO LET.

NO. 6, PEDDARS HILL, comprising of 5 Rooms with out-house, occupation from 1st proximo.

GROUND FLOOR of No. 2, DES VŒUX ROAD including a Strong Room and Servant Quarters.

ROOMS on Second Floor of Victoria Building, No. 5, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

Apply to—

DAVID SASSOON & Co., LD.

Hongkong, 4th February, 1907.

Intimation.

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

1, ICE HOUSE ROAD, HONGKONG.

CABLE ADDRESS:—Telegraph, Hongkong.

THE leading English Newspaper in China. Also widely circulated in Japan, Coochin, China, Ceylon, India and the Far East generally.

A daily newspaper with weekly edition published for despatch by the homeward mail. The daily is recommended as more generally suitable, except for subscribers in Europe or America.

A special feature is made of full and accurate reports of local occurrences, and of matters of general interest.

ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT.

The Hongkong Telegraph is the best medium for advertising in China. It circulates largely among all classes of the community, is the largest daily newspaper, and has a wider circulation than any journal in the Far East.

Special attention given to effectively displaying advertisements.

The type used as a standard for setting advertisements is similar to this, unless we are instructed to display the advertisement, when any effective style of type will be adopted.

This standard runs exactly eight lines to the inch, and about eight words to the line.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

Notices of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in each insertion in the Daily and Weekly.

CONTRACT ADVERTISEMENTS.

Special Rates for standing advertisements can be ascertained from the Manager.

Advertisements for the Daily should reach the Hongkong Telegraph Office not later than noon of the day they are intended to appear.

Unless otherwise specified all advertisements will be repeated and charged for until countermanded.

JOBBER DEPARTMENT.

Job Printing of all descriptions undertaken, PROGRAMMES

PAMPHLETS.

CARDS.

CIRCULARS.

EXTRACTS.

All job printing is done under European supervision, well turned out, free from errors, and remarkably cheap at

THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH

OFFICE.

Estimates given for all classes of work on application to

THE MANAGER.

HONGKONG TELEGRAPH CO., LD.

1, Ice House Road, Hongkong.

COLONIAL WEDDINGS.

DIFFICULTIES OF DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER QUESTION.

The question raised in the correspondence columns of the Tribune the other day with reference to a marriage with a deceased wife's sister in the Colonies being recognized as legal in England is presenting a difficulty to persons more versed in the marriage laws than the correspondent who wrote. He stated that he was married to his deceased wife's sister in Jersey, after satisfying the registrar "in answer to very close questions about their relationship." He added that he went to Jersey to settle, but after two years' residence there he was compelled to leave the island. In England, where nobody seems to know whether he is legally married or not.

A representative of the Tribune visited the offices of the Marriage Law Reform Association to seek enlightenment on the question. Mr. T. Paynter Allen, the secretary, said it was impossible to give a definite reply.

"The problem is being raised in many quarters," remarked Mr. Paynter Allen, "and the Colonial Marriages (Deceased Wife's Sister) Act, 1906, is likely to present many difficulties. With reference to the question asked by the correspondent, whether the Act of last year includes Jersey, the answer is in the affirmative. But it does not follow that a marriage with a deceased wife's sister solemnized there would in every case be legally recognized in this country. If that were so Jersey would afford an easy way of evading the existing English law. It is quite true that under the new Act Colonial marriages with a deceased wife's sister are now recognized as legal in this country; but we are frequently receiving letters from correspondents who desire to know the scope of the new Act.

A CASE IN POINT.

"Take the following case: A man interested in mining operations goes to Canada. His intention is to remain there in order to take part in a promising enterprise. While he is there he marries his deceased wife's sister. The enterprise fails, and he returns after a short absence to this country. Is that marriage, which was legal in Canada, legally recognized in England? The Act does not make it clear. In the majority of the Colonies temporary residence of the parties is sufficient before the marriage is carried out. In Jersey the persons must be domiciled, and it has been stated that domicile there must be interpreted according to the principle accepted in this country. That interpretation is that the persons must have gone to the place where the marriage is to be contracted with the intention of remaining there permanently.

"But who is to decide the intentions, say, of a wealthy man who desired to marry his deceased wife's sister, and being unable to do so in this country went to Jersey, bought a freehold there, got over the matrimonial difficulty, and then finding the Channel island disagreeable, returned to England? Would the Courts of this country recognize such a marriage?"

"Such a case as that and the one I have mentioned of the man going to Canada raise points which are creating difficulties in the minds of many people in connexion with the new Act.

THE QUESTION OF CHILDREN

"There are difficulties in relation to the children of such marriages, and it is in regard to that matter that the Marriage Law Reform Association is frequently consulted.

"A man might imagine his marriage with a deceased wife's sister in a Colony, after temporary residence there, to be legally recognized in this country. But when, after his death, his property came to be distributed among his children—litigation might be raised by other members of his family, and the law courts might take a view with regard to his intentions in going to the Colony where he was married which would render his marriage illegal.

"The only remedy is the alteration of the law so as to render marriage with a deceased wife's sister legal in this country. The Marriage Law Reform Association is hoping that the present Parliament will pass such a measure. If a favourable place is not secured for the Bill in the ballot at the beginning of next session we should like to see the Government take it up. I don't think there would be any difficulty in the House of Lords. Our trouble is not there," added Mr. Paynter Allen, with a smile.

SHORN PRECEPTS FOR USE IN CONVERSATION.

Do unto others as you know that they would like to do unto you.

Read Mark Twain and inwardly... resolve to read more.

He who leaves early gets the pick of the umbrellas.

Crying over spilt milk is silly; it has probably been already watered by the milkman.

Even a Sufaragette may inspire love.

To buy one's own coffin is simply throwing money away.

Truth lives at the bottom of a well. That's why people let well alone.

Everything has its use even the "Encyclopaedia Britannica."

We cannot even be sure that there is no "Daily Mail" in the next world.

A friend in need is a really assistance.

To call a man a "Guardian" is almost amounts to libel.

Continual cheerfulness is very suburban. Charity begins at a bazaar and ends in a deficit.

Love your neighbour even if he has a gramophone.

An Englishman's fish is a Frenchman's poison.

Bargain sales begot bad manners.

Give me the prejudices and I'll give you all the arguments.

When it pleases Heaven to open your eyes, you will see the matter in the same light as I do.

When told you are "anguish" in a crowd, the fastest way round is the shortest way home.

An admission in time saves nine.

A fool and his point are soon parted.

Run two horses, and you'll catch nothing.







## Mails.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL  
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA,  
INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITER-  
RANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH  
AND LONDON.

(Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA,  
PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL, AMERI-  
CAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS.)

## THE Steamship

"DELHI,"  
Captain J. D. Andrews, carrying His Ma-  
jesty's Mails, will be despatched from this for  
BOMBAY, on SATURDAY, the 9th March,  
at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for  
the above Ports in connection with the Com-  
pany's S.S. *Memora*, 10,500 tons, from Colombo,  
Passenger accommodation in which vessel is  
secured before departure from Hongkong.

Silk and Valuable, all Cargo for France,  
and Tea for London (under arrangement)  
will be transhipped at Colombo into the Mail  
steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and  
London, other Cargo for London, &c., will be  
conveyed from Bombay by the R.M.S.  
*Calcutta*, due in London on 23rd April, 1907.

Parcels will be received at this Office until  
4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents  
and Value of all Packages are required.

For further Particulars, apply to

J. E. HEWETT,  
Superintendent,  
Hongkong, 26th February, 1907.

## TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

## SOUTH AMERICAN LINE.

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE  
BETWEEN HONGKONG, CALLAO  
AND IQUIQUE Via  
JAPAN PORTS.

Will be sent to VALPARAISO if sufficient  
inducement.

Steamers To sail

"GLENFARG" 4,000, March 26, at Noon  
"KASATOMARU" 6,100, April 25, at Noon

Taking Freight and Passengers to other  
Eastern and Western Coast ports of South  
America in connection with Steamers of the  
Pacific S. N. Co.

The above Steamers have splendid Accom-  
modation and are fitted throughout with  
Electric Light. A duly qualified Surgeon is  
carried on each boat.

K. MATSUDA,  
Manager,  
York Building.

Hongkong, 8th February, 1907.

## Intimations.

CUTLER, PALMER & CO.  
WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

LONDON, INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA.  
ESTABLISHED 1815.

	One Case.	One Case.
	Qls.	Pts.
COGNAC	\$21.50	—
"	19.00	—
"	16.00	—
WHISKY, FINE MALL	19.00	—
" JOHN WALKER	12.00	—
" C. P. & CO'S SPECIAL BLEND	10.00	—
PORT WINE, INVALIDS	19.00	—
" DOURO	13.00	—
SHERRY, AMOROSO	19.00	—
" LA TORRE	15.25	—
BENEDICTINE, D.O.M.	38.50	40.50

THE ABOVE EXCLUSIVELY SHIPPED TO

SIEMSEN & CO.,

HONGKONG AGENTS.

Hongkong, 16th November, 1906.

## ACHEE &amp; CO.

ESTABLISHED 1850.

## FURNITURE,

## DEPOT

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD

FOR

REQUISITES:

EASTMAN'S

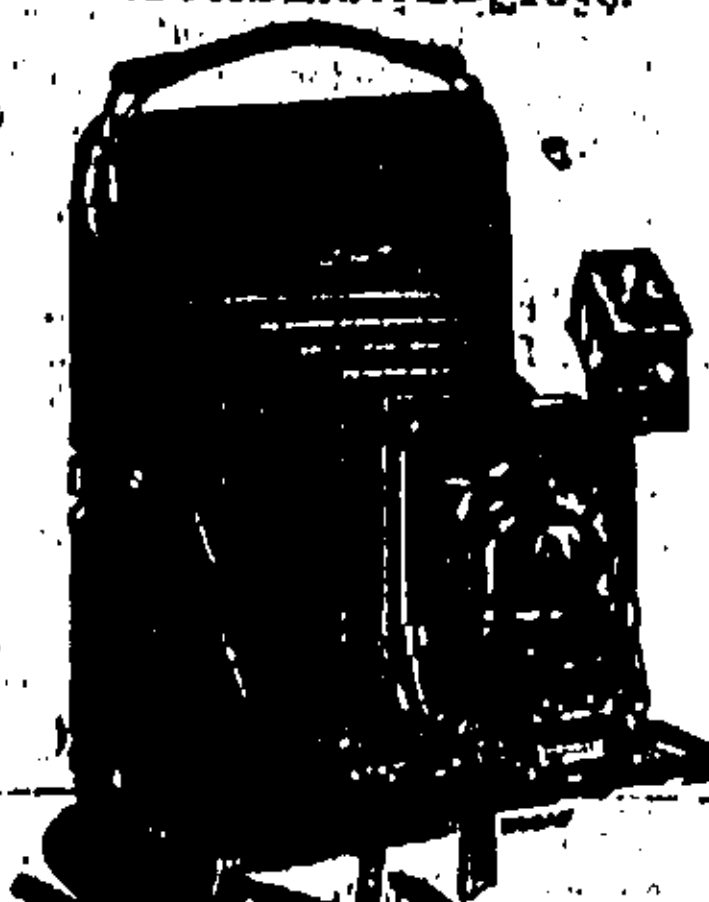
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KODAKS, FILMS,

AND

ACCESSORIES.

AMATEUR WORK Receivers PROMPT and CAREFUL ATTENTION.  
Hongkong, 16th May, 1904.

MESSAGERIES  
MARITIMES  
FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS.

STEAM FOR SAIGON,  
SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,  
COLOMBO, CALCUTTA,  
BOMBAAY, ADEN, DJI-  
BOUTI, EGYPT, MAR-  
SEILLES, LONDON.

HAVRE, BORDEAUX, MEDITERRANEAN AND  
BLACK SEA PORTS.

## The S.S. "AUSTRALIEN,"

Captain Veron, will be despatched for  
MARSEILLES on TUESDAY, the 5th March,  
at 1 P.M.

This Steamer connects at Colombo with the  
Australian line s.s. *Nera* bound for Marseilles  
via Bombay and Aden.

Passage tickets and through Bills of Lading  
issued for above ports.

Cargo also booked for principal places in  
Europe.

Next sailings will be as follows:—

S.S. *TONKIN* ..... 19th March.

S.S. *ERNEST SIMONS* ..... 2nd April.

S.S. *POLYNESIEN* ..... 16th April.

S.S. *VILLE DE LA CIOTAT* ..... 30th April.

S.S. *SALAZIE* ..... 14th May.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,  
Agent.

Hongkong, 26th February, 1907.

## NORTHERN PACIFIC LINE.

## BOSTON STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

## BOSTON TOW-BOAT COMPANY.

Connecting at Tacoma with  
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY  
COMPANY.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG FOR  
VICTORIA, B.C. AND TACOMA,  
VIA

MOJI, KOBE AND YOKOHAMA.

Steamer.	Tonn.	Captain.	Sailing.
<i>Lyra</i> .....	4,417	H.C. Armstrong	27th Mar.
<i>Shavmut</i> .....	9,606	E. V. Roberts	23rd April
<i>Tremont</i> .....	9,606	T. W. Garlick	—

\* Cargo only.

CHEAP FARES, EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION,  
ATTENDANCE AND CUISINE, ELECTRIC  
LIGHT, DOCTOR AND STEWARDESSES.

The twin-screw s.s. *Shavmut* and *Tremont*  
are fitted with very superior accommodation  
for first and second class passengers. The  
large size of these vessels ensures steadiness  
at sea. Electric fan in each room.

Barber's shop, and steam-laundry. Cargo  
carried in cold storage.

For further information, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,  
General Agents.

Queen's Buildings.

Hongkong, 25th February, 1907.

## SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Supplied by Messrs. E. S. KADOORIE & Co. Corrected to noon; later alterations given under "Commercial Intelligence," page 5.

STOCKS.	NO. OF SHARES.	VALUE.	PAID UP.	POSITION AS PER LAST REPORT RESERVE.	AT WORKING ACCOUNT.	LAST DIVIDEND.	APPROXIMATE RETURN AT PRESENT QUOTATION, BASED ON LAST YEAR'S DIV.	CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
BANKS.								
Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation .....	10,000	125	125	£1,000,000 \$1,000,000	\$1,721,558	{£1.15/- and bonus of £1 @ Ex. 2/31 = \$24.33 making \$25.33 for 1906 .....	4 1/2 %	{89 1/2 sellers London 2104.10
National Bank of China, Limited .....	10,000	17	16	£12,735 \$15,000	\$74,099	\$2 (London 3/6) for 1905 .....	—	\$50
MARINE INSURANCES.								
Union Insurance Office, Limited .....	10,000	250	250	£1,675,000 \$200,000	\$233,638	\$20 for 1905 .....	6 1/2 %	\$295 sellers
North China Insurance Company, Limited .....	10,000	115	115	£110,000 Tls. 100,000	Tls. 185,529	{Final of 7/6 making 15/- for year ended 30.6.1906 .....	6 %	Tls. 80 sellers
Union Insurance Co. of Canton, Limited .....	10,000	250	100	£1,000,000 \$20,000	1,072,271	Interim div. of 1/3 for 1905 .....	5 %	\$830 buyers
Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£1,000,000 \$15,527	150,134	1 1/2 mil. 1/3 special dividend for 1904 .....	9 1/2 %	\$160 buyers
FIRE INSURANCES.								
China Fire Insurance Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£1,000,000 \$229,488	1,444,058	1/4 for 1904 .....	6 1/2 %	{98 sales and b. Tls. 10 buyers
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Limited .....	10,000	125	125	£1,220,028 \$2,616	1,422,618	\$25 for 1904 .....	6 1/2 %	{380 sales & b. Tls. 10 buyers
SHIPPING.								
China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited .....	10,000	25	25	£6,000 \$264,638	16,563	1/4 for 1905 .....	7 1/2 %	\$20
Douglas Steamship Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£103,563 \$250,000	Nil	\$2 1/2 for year ended 30.6.1906 .....	7 %	\$36
Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboat Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	115	115	£1,000,000 \$144,386	20,170	1/4 for 2nd half-year making \$2.00 for 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	\$30 sales
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited .....	10,000	110	110	£1,000,000 \$280,958	2,212	10/- @ ex. 2/1-9/16 = \$4.69 .....	5 1/2 %	\$86
Shanghai Tug and Lighter Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£1,000,000 \$20,000	2,156	{Interim div. of Tls. 2 1/2 for 1906 .....	9 %	Tls. 58 sellers
Do. (Preference) .....	10,000	11	11	£1,000,000 \$20,000	107,111	Interim div. of Tls. 1 1/2 for 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	Tls. 10 buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Company, Limited .....	10,000	11	11	£1,000,000 \$4,144	1218	1/4 (Coupon No. 7) for 1906 .....	2 1/2 %	{380 sales and b. Tls. 10 buyers
"Star" Ferry Company, Limited .....	10,000	10	10	£1,000,000 \$20,000	1218	{1.50/- for year ending 30.6.1906 .....	5 %	\$30 buyers
Taku Tug and Lighter Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£1,000,000 \$305,479	11,613	Interim div. of Tls. 2 account 1906 .....	8 1/2 %	7 Tls. 49 buyers
MINING.								
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£185,000 \$450,000	10,914	Final of \$15 making \$25 for 1905 .....	20 %	\$125
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$86,129	132,388	\$1 for 1905 .....	—	\$21
Perak Sugar Cultivation Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 Tls. 100,000	Tls. 8,935	Tls. 4 (8 %) for year ending 31.8.06 .....	5 1/2 %	Tls. 75 sellers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Chinese Engineering and Mining Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	11	11	£110,000 \$26,011	12,545	{Final of 1/- (N. 7) making 2/- for year ended 30.6.06 .....	5 %	Tls. 15 sellers
Central Consolidated Mining Company, Limited .....	10,000	11	11	£100,000 \$19,170	1,000,000	Interim of 50 cents for account 1906 .....	10 %	G. \$10
Raub Australian Gold Mining Company, Limited .....	10,000	11	11	£100,000 \$4,873	1,000,000	{10.12 of 1/- = 48 cents .....	—	\$8 buyers
DOCKS, WHARVES & GODOWNS.								
Fenwick (Geo.) & Co., Limited .....	10,000	25	25	£100,000 \$20,000	38,915	\$2 for 1905 .....	1 1/2 %	\$21
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 \$10,160	120,040	{2 1/2 for a/c 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	\$64
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 \$10,000	400,933	\$6 for 2nd half-year making \$12 for 1906 .....	9 %	\$134 ex div.
New Amoy Dock Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 \$18,000	52,221	\$1 for 1905 .....	8 1/2 %	\$12
Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£1,000,000 Tls. 487,210	Tls. 3,997	Final of Tls. 4 making Tls. 8 for 1905/6 .....	7 1/2 %	Tls. 107 sales
Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£1,000,000 Tls. 57,065	Tls. 57,065	Interim div. of Tls. 8 on account 1906 .....	5 1/2 %	Tls. 350 buyers
Do. do. do. (new) .....	10,000	100	100	£1,000,000 Tls. 30,000	none	none	—	Tls. 225
Yangtze Wharf and Godown Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£1,000,000 Tls. 5,668	Tls. 5,668	Tls. 18 for 1905 .....	7 1/2 %	Tls. 250 sellers
LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.								
Anglo-French Land Investment Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$25,000	none	First year .....	—	Tls. 105 buyers
Star House Hotel Company, Limited (Shanghai) .....	10,000	25	25	£100,000 \$15,000	38,418	\$3 for year ended 30.6.1906 .....	10 1/2 %	\$20 buyers
Central Stores, Limited .....	10,000	15	15	£100,000 \$15,000	54,719	{2.40 on \$2 for 1905 .....	13 1/2 %	\$18 buyers
Do. (new issue) .....	10,000	15	15	£100,000 \$15,000	none	7 % on \$7 for 1905 .....	—	\$16 buyers
Do. (Founders) .....	10,000	15	15	£100,000 \$15,000	164,975	None .....	—	\$300 buyers
Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 \$19,075	110,057	\$5 for first half-year for 1906 .....	8 1/2 %	\$123 sales
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$25,000	56,218	Final div. of \$33 making \$7 for 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	\$107 buyers
Hotel des Colonies Company, Limited .....	10,000	25	25	£100,000 Tls. 20,783	Tls. 1,035	Final of 6 % = 10 % for 1905 .....	16 1/2 %	Tls. 151
Hotel Metropole Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$100,000	54,699	Final of \$6 making \$10 .....	12 1/2 %	\$80
Humphreys Estate & Finance Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$208,386	11,167	80 cents for 1906 .....	7 1/2 %	\$114
Kowloon Land and Building Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 \$10,000	51,089	\$2 1/2 for 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	\$37
Shanghai Land Investment Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 869,493	11,869,493	Final div. of Tls. 3 & bonus Tls. 1 1/2 (old sh.) & div. of 75 cents & bonus of 1 cts. (new sh.) for 1906 .....	7 1/2 %	{Tls. 103 sellers Tls. 64
Do. do. do. (new issue) .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 170,000	11,869,493	Final div. of \$2.10 making \$4.10 for 1906 .....	8 1/2 %	\$50
West Point Building Company, Limited .....	10,000	50	50	£100,000 \$10,000	51,519	—	—	—
COTTON MILLS.								
Two Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 150,000	Tls. 64,986	Tls. 10 for year ended 31.10.1906 .....	13 1/2 %	Tls. 75 sellers
Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 45,939	Tls. 21,660	\$1 1/2 for the year ending 31.7.06 .....	10 1/2 %	\$12
International Cotton Manufacturing Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 150,000	Tls. 36,211	Tls. 6 for year ended 30.9.06 (8 %) .....	9 1/2 %	Tls. 64 buyers
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning & Weaving Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 18,456	Tls. 31,469	Tls. 8 for 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	Tls. 124 ex div.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 18,456	Tls. 35,986	Tls. 25 for 1905 .....	6 %	Tls. 420
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Anglo-German Brewery Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	\$7 for 1905 .....	7 1/2 %	197 1/2
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	1/3 per share for 1905 .....	8 1/2 %	\$7 sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co., Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	\$2 for 1905 .....	10 %	\$20
China-Borneo Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	\$1 for 1905 .....	—	\$10
China Flour Mill Co., Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	Final of Tls. 5 making Tls. 10 for 1905 ..	17 1/2 %	Tls. 57 sales
China Light and Power Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	60 cents for year ended 28.2.06 .....	6 1/2 %	\$10
China Provident Loan & Mortgage Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	80 cents for 1906 .....	9 %	\$8.90 buyers
Dairy Farm Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	\$1.30 for year ending 31.7.1906 .....	8 %	\$104 sales
Green Island Cement Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	Int. div. of 75 cents for 1-year ended 30.6.06 ..	9 1/2 %	\$114 sales
Hall & Holtz, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	\$1 1/2 for year ending 28.2.06 .....	10 1/2 %	\$23 buyers
Hongkong Electric Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	{55 cents for 10 months ending 28.2.06 .....	7 1/2 %	\$154 buyers
Hongkong High-Level Tramways Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	{Int. div. of \$20 for 10 months ending 18.10.05 ..	10 1/2 %	\$215
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	Final of \$18 making \$2 for yr. ending 31.12.06 ..	9 1/2 %	\$240 sales & b.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	\$9 for 1905 on 5 shares .....	8 1/2 %	\$21
Hongkong Steam Waterboat Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 \$10,000	11,869,493	Final of 50 cents making \$1 for the year .....	15 1/2 %	\$61
Maatschappij tot Mijn. Bosch- en Landbouwen- exploitatie in Langkat, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 47,500	Tls. 10,174	{4th interim div. of Tls. 7 1/2 making Tls. 30 so far a/c 1906 .....	8 1/2 %	Tls. 263 buyers
Philippine Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 27,603	Dr. P. 34,324	None .....	—	\$5 buyers
Shanghai Gas Company, Limited (old) .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 165,000	Tls. 11,017	{Interim dividend of Tls. 3 1/2 account 1906 .....	6 1/2 %	{Tls. 100 buyers Tls. 100 b.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 45,000	Tls. 9,751	1/4 for 1904 .....	15 1/2 %	Tls. 38
Shanghai Pulp and Paper Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 37,000	Tls. 2,753	Interim div. of Tls. 5 account 1906 .....	11 1/2 %	Tls. 120 buyers
Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 24,820	Tls. 1,452	Interim div. of Tls. 4 on account 1906 .....	4 1/2 %	Tls. 105 buyers
Shanghai Waterworks Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 190,000	Tls. 85,592	{Interim div. of 15/- for 1-year 1906 .....	—	Tls. 360
South China Morning Post, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 125	Dr. 41,934	Interim div. of 5/- for 1-year 1906 .....	—	Tls. 325 sales
Team Laundry Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 5	214	None .....	—	\$25
Teatsin Waterworks Company, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 15,295	Tls. 1,012	30 cts. (old) & 15 cts. (new) year ended 31.5.06 ..	5 1/2 %	\$25
United Asbestos Oriental Agency, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 4,000	752	Interim of Tls. 4 for year 1905/6 .....	7 1/2 %	Tls. 100 buyers
Do. (Founders) .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 325,000	752	{70 cents for year ended 31.5.1906 .....	8 1/2 %	\$10
Watson, (A. S.) & Co., Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 325,000	752	{50 cents for year ended 31.5.1906 .....	6 1/2 %	\$150
William Powell, Limited .....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 4,500	5182	Interim of 40 cents for account 1906 .....	8 1/2 %	\$12 buyers
DIVIDENDS PAYABLE.—								
Soy Chee Cotton S. Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 50	—	—	—	March 31st
Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 50	—	—	—	5th
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 71	—	—	—	7th
Langkate, etc. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 71	—	—	—	7th
China Fire Insurance Co. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 88	—	—	—	7th
Central Stores, Ltd. ....	10,000	100	100	£100,000 Tls. 80	—	—	—	8th



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noting the fact of the arrival at Berlin of Prof. de Martens, observes that, "while fire-eating generals and journalists at home and abroad are clamouring for conscription, or uttering dark prophecies about the aims of Germany, men of peace are looking eagerly to what the second Hague Conference will bring forth." We are informed that Prof. de Martens is to visit the chief capitals of Europe to discuss the proposals and wishes of the Powers, and out of these discussions—in Berlin, Paris, London, The Hague, Rome and Vienna—will come the programme for the Conference, issued by Russia together with Holland. The most important item, it is needless to say, will be the reduction of armaments, and on that point our contemporary confidently expects a strong line to be taken by our own Government; for although, as Prof. de Martens says, we have made no proposals to Russia on the question of disarmament, our attitude towards the matter has been sufficiently indicated by the utterances of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. According to the home journal, another question which is to be debated is the South American Drago doctrine—the doctrine that no debt due to the subject of a Foreign Power shall be collected by a force employed by that Power. On this the South American States will very likely wish to express their views, which may be done. It is thought, through Mr. Tower, the American Ambassador at Berlin, that Prof. de Martens' mission will be attended with complete success.

#### INDIAN SHYLOCKS.

It will be within the memory of our readers that in a case wherein an Indian usurer sued his victim for the recovery of a loan which had, practically, been already twice paid, his Honour Mr. Justice Wise, presiding in the Summary Court, made some very pertinent remarks on the subject of the usury practised in this Colony by the Indian money-lenders, or Shylocks, and also stated that in future in the event of these cases coming before him his Honour would give judgment, if the claim was proved, but the payments would be ordered to be made in such small instalments that it would probably be a matter of ten years before the amount was finally wiped out. It is interesting, therefore, to learn from an Indian contemporary that at least one Judge has started out on a campaign against Indian usurers, and if his action in the case noted below was somewhat arbitrary, he acted on the ground that the matter was an "unconscionable transaction." Our contemporary, in commenting upon the case, which has a certain interest for this Colony, seeing that the conditions are identical says: "The judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Davar in the suit of a promissory note by a firm of Marwaris will appeal particularly to 'the great race' of borrowers. It is not for me to say whether it is sound in law or not. But to the layman, its equity and justice are beyond question, and if it were reversed by a higher tribunal on appeal, then the borrower might well exclaim, 'the law is a ass.' The judgment will give a rude shock to shylocks. The impression that they could exact their pound of flesh, if it is so written in the bond, is knocked on the head, as well as another notion prevalent among them, that they have only to bring a suit triable by the Small Causes Court to the High Court, in order to obtain a decree for the immediate recovery of the full amount in place of the payment by small instalments usually ordered by the other Court. Instead of the 60 and 75 per cent. charged for loans given to the debtor, the learned Judge has allowed only 24 per cent., which I should think is quite as much as any usurer might desire. He has reduced the rate of interest on the ground that the agreement came within the meaning of an 'unconscionable transaction,' in which the lender was in a position to dominate the will of the helpless borrower. If the law will not allow the Marwari to charge interest beyond a certain rate then this astute gentleman will know how to circumvent the law by various other means, and he will be in as good a position as ever to dominate the will of his victim. It must be conceded that the Marwari charges exorbitant interest mostly where the credit of the borrower has been very nearly exhausted and his personal security is of the slenderest. Mr. Davar opposes this plea by the argument that it is open to the Marwari in such cases to refuse a loan. This, again, will be hard upon a certain class of borrowers, and those not of the most honest description, who would rather have a loan at 75 per cent. interest, than none at all. Having thus shown one side of the picture the writer of the article in our contemporary proceeds to hold up the Marwari as a somewhat admirable philanthropist, at which characterization no one would be more surprised, if it were made thoroughly clear to him, than the Marwari himself. The writer of it, however, candidly admits, practically, that he has no personal knowledge of the Marwari, and accepts his data 'from all accounts'—a very reliable source of information, indeed! As a matter of fact it was common knowledge in India that young military officers, mercantile assistants, and other young men making a start in life in India, had to forego their return home leave, because the argus eye of the Marwari, or his subsidized spies, was upon the unfortunate man, and he knew that he was 'shadowed' and therefore dare not leave the country! The cases constantly coming before the Court would show that the conditions are pretty much the same here. The article continues: 'The Marwari is not a popular member of society, but he is a useful member, after all. He is the poor man's resource

and accommodates him with a loan on mere personal security, even where the risk of losing it, interest and all, is by no means small. He allows the element of speculation to enter into his transactions and calculates the odds just as the book-maker does at the race-course. I behold in him some redeeming features, because it may be that, luckily for me, I have had no occasion to study him at close quarters. But from all accounts (he italics are ours), he is fairly reasonable with his regular clients, and he rarely presses the honest debtor hard. Every Marwari is not an inhuman blood-sucker, as every debtor is not an honest man reduced to borrowing through no fault of his own. The borrower is often thrifless and extravagant, and without any definite notion of his ability to repay, he 'sells forth, like some Alex. under, upon his great enterprise, borrowing and to borrow.' It was an excellent advice, that of Polonius: 'Neither a lender nor a borrower be.' But while the human species is composed, as Lamb put it in one of his charmingly whimsical essays, of two distinct races, the men who borrow, and the men who lend, it is impossible to make this advice of universal application. It would not be possible, in that case, for Society to exist. The Marwari must, therefore, live for himself, as well as others. If he is an evil, it is an evil as necessary as that which drives people, honest and otherwise, to borrow. The one is but a corollary of the other.' We respectfully commend to the notice of our worthy Puisse Judge the expression, 'Unconscionable transaction!'

#### THE DOCK CO.

(25th February.)

Those of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., who have taken an active part in opposing the tentative proposal to increase the capital of the Company for the purpose of lengthening the No. 1 Dock at Kowloon will have cause for gratification in the Chairman's pronouncement at the annual meeting to-day when Sir Paul Chater said: "We hope to be able to carry it [the extension] through without making any call upon shareholders for increased capital." There may be among the shareholders many who would have preferred a more definite statement from the chair as regards the vexed question of the increase of capital, than the mere expression of hope of the Company's ability to provide for the extension scheme out of profits. Writing for ourselves we confess our inability to endorse so guarded a statement, since the Board must have long been in possession of actual figures realisable out of 'the vast amount of work' not yet completed, and 'the profits arising therefrom will come into the accounts for the current six months.' It is idle to suppose that large repairing jobs that have been tendered for and accepted and which are in progress cannot, with a reasonable degree of approximation, be figured out; and as it is admitted that the largest profits arising from the typhoon are yet to accrue, the Directorate might have taken the shareholders more into their confidence and remove the doubt as to the financial ability of the Company to meet the cost of extension. Another point gained for the signatories to the protest against the increase of capital is in securing the reversion of the Board's decision to place the undertaking in the hands of engineers not connected with the Company. It was from the outset known to those intimately associated with the capabilities of the staff of the Docks at Kowloon that amongst its members there were men of sufficient technical skill and ability to plan, supervise and carry out the undertaking without calling in outside technical aid which means additional extra cost. When Docks are no longer considered the 'Consols of the East' and confidence wholly estranged from the great majority of shareholders, it behoves the Directors to watch every avenue of extraneous expenditure and we are glad to observe the ultimate acquiescence by the Board in the wiser counsels of the interested shareholders, who—in opposing the policy that might have spelled disaster to the Dock Co. had it been put into execution by calling for fresh capital under decidedly unpopular conditions—have successfully staved off the impending ruin of a concern on whose continued prosperity so many and such large interests depend in the Colony.

#### THE OPIUM TRADE.

(26th February.)

The first step towards the extinction of the opium trade appears to have been initiated by the Home Government. The important announcement which we made in last evening's issue regarding the determination of the Indian Government to reduce the forthcoming sale of opium by 400 chests per month points to the fact that the gradual extinction of the export trade in the drug from the Indian Empire is aimed at by the authorities at Home. The conformity with the supposed wishes of the Chinese Government is apparent when it is considered that one of the clauses of the Imperial edict, promulgated in respect of the abolition of the opium traffic, provided that opium should be wiped out in China within ten years from the publication of the decree. We have time and again commented, in these columns that the Chinese Government cannot be taken seriously as entertaining the purely Utopian idea that a drug such as opium can be eradicated from the Empire within that short space of time. It would be a millenium which might be devoutly wished for, but a writer in the *Pail Mail Gazette* suggested

the other day, could only be entertained by a few young missionaries who know as much about China from its commercial side as those at Home do who are agitating, and apparently with some success, for the abolition of a legitimate trade, which contributes so large a proportion of the revenue of the Indian exchequer. Incidentally, what would reduce the sources of revenue by the restriction of the cultivation and sale of the herb in India would affect Hongkong in a very material way. As a matter of fact our revenue would be affected to the extent of no less than a million and a quarter a year, in the making of which those who decry the trade have shown no possible means of counter-balancing. It is also curious to note that these self-complacent agitators, who have the cause of China so much at heart, or pretend to advance the interests of the people, who they allege are beyond redemption, being addicted to a habit which has endured for centuries, should ignore the vices which afflict the European nations. They would in no way be disturbed by the reduction in the revenue derivable from the trade which is one of the mainstays of the Indian treasury. The material reduction in the sale of the drug would necessitate the reduction in the output of the poppy, and hence, the reduction in the area of its cultivation under the terms of the Chinese edict, while the growth of the plant in the northern territories of India would be a thing of the past. How the present Government will reconcile its abolition, in the light of events in the future, time alone can tell, but it needs no prophetic eye to discern that in spite of all the promises of mandarinism in the Middle Kingdom we may find an increase rather than a decrease in the cultivation of the plant within China herself.

#### AN AMERICAN INDICTMENT.

(27th February.)

Ever since the Japanese Government declared Newchwang and Dalny open ports, doubts have been suggested by merchants of other nations as to the exact interpretation which should be placed on the word "open." American traders have not been slow to assert that while these ports which give admittance to goods consigned to Manchuria are technically "open," the hindrances and obstacles placed in the way of foreign firms by the Japanese officials have been sufficient to prevent fair competition by the nationals of other countries. In this connection a lengthy article appears in a recent issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the writer being Mr. Sam B. Trisler, who is resident at Dalny. He says: "The Americans and others who accepted Japan's invitation to share in the trade that would come through the opening of Mukden found when they sent their cargoes to Newchwang for shipment into the interior that Japan's idea of the open-door policy differed very much from the idea of other people." The first difficulty was met with, he alleges, at the Custom-house which is under Japanese military supervision. It is claimed that while consignments of Japanese goods passed the barrier without delay, the merchandise of foreign dealers was detained for a week or ten days. Then the foreigners discovered that the railway from Newchwang to Mukden was so occupied by the Japanese in the transportation of military supplies that it was impossible to obtain permission to despatch goods into the interior, until a special permit had been obtained from the War Department at Tokyo. And it is stated that "some of the applications for permission to ship freight over the South Manchurian Railway are still pigeon-holed in Tokyo, while others, after unbearable delays, were favourably considered." But even then the path of the man who intended to compete with the Japanese for trade in Manchuria was not unobstructed. He found the permission from Tokyo did not mean that his goods would be received by the railway officials. He was informed that it would be necessary for him to employ a Japanese to act as his shipping agent in all transactions with the railway administration. "The junks were all owned by Japanese speculators, with the result that it was practically useless to expect them to act as carriers except at prohibitive rates. Turning from Newchwang when it was closed by the winter, several merchants tried Dalny but with little success. The German flag was the first to appear in the roadstead, and several shipping companies announced their intention of making Dalny a port of call, but they reckoned without their host, and the result was that those plans were abandoned, and Dalny was left to the Japanese shipping companies. The writer alleges that every pound of Japanese goods that enters Dalny, no matter whether it belongs to the Japanese Government or to Japanese firms is described as military supplies and passed through without unnecessary delay. "The American indictment proceeds: 'In a few, a very few instances, British concerns have been able to persuade the military administration to rent warehouses and offices to them, and have used the Japanese steamship lines to transport their supplies to Dalny. But there their goods remain. They find that it is impossible to ship anything on the railway into the interior. The same rule applies at Dalny, as exists at Newchwang.' The British-American Tobacco Company is apparently one of the few concerns which has managed to obtain a footing in the country, but that is attributed to the fact that the cigarettes manufactured by the company are so greatly superior to the Japanese article that even the Japanese themselves refuse to smoke anything else. It is suggested that there might be a market for American flour in Manchuria, but the writer

of the article in question is not hopeful. From the foregoing it will be seen that the author is strongly anti-Japanese, and is apt to view the situation through darkened glasses. He has not a good word to say for them, no commendation of their enterprise, no recognition of their patriotism, which, consequently, detracts considerably from the value of his observations and leads to the conclusion that the article is not wholly devoid of exaggeration. It may be quite true that the Japanese, being first in the field after the war, are bent on holding the market they gained in advance of foreign competitors. But it is scarcely conceivable that they would seek to do so by other than fair means, or nullify the promises they made to the great trading nations by regrettably depriving them of any benefits that may accrue from the "open door" in Manchuria. We are assisted to this conclusion by referring to the speech delivered by Mr. A. Haupt as chairman of the recent meeting of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. He regarded the opening of Manchuria as extremely favourable to Hongkong generally and made no allusion to any obstacles placed by Japanese officials in the way of fair and honest competition in the North. "Indeed, his view of the situation was extremely sanguine," for he said: "We are now able to record a greatly improved movement; cargo is already going more freely to Manchuria and there is good reason to expect that the opening of the ice-bound ports next month will see a more active demand, considerably reducing stocks. Better trade in the North will no doubt be reflected here to some extent and with the assistance of moderately good rice crops, which we can at least hope for, we should find better times ahead than we are leaving behind." From that we are inclined to believe that the American writer has allowed his imagination to run away with him in the intensity of his patriotism, and has found fault with a system which could not have been perfected at the time of writing in November last. Being prepared and anxious to resent Japanese competition he has succeeded, probably, beyond his own expectations, in discovering objections to the Japanese methods of trade operations. The unbiased reader will hardly accept as gospel the views of a prejudiced writer, especially when those views are apparently diametrically opposed to those held by an authority in the position of a director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. For the present, then, the Japanese Government and the Japanese merchants are distinctly entitled to the benefit of the doubt.

#### HONGKONG HOSPITALS.

At first sight it might appear to the reader of the proceedings which took place at the annual meeting of the Finance Committee of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals, held yesterday, that these institutions were on the verge of bankruptcy or, at least, in a bad way financially. The treasurer, the Rev. R. Wells, recited the jeremiad, when he lamented the decrease in the revenue from donations and subscriptions, declared that the debit balance had increased, and pointed to the heavy overdraft. But there was really very little cause for all this "Lochaber no more" style for, after all, the hospitals were comparatively well supported taking all things into account. Of course, there was the usual reference to the memorable typhoon, an occurrence which creeps into the reports of all the local benevolent societies, and to it was attributed the reduction in the donations which are usually given by Chinese residents. Still, the donations only fell off some \$1,500, the total amount given in 1906 being \$8,714.94 as compared with \$10,221.03 in the previous year, while the Hospital Sunday collections were under the total realised in 1905 by the sum of \$150. One result, possibly of the diminution in the revenue was that the hospitals were run more economically than before, in spite of the fact that there were more patients treated and an extra hospital, the Ho Min Ling, had to be worked. There can be no doubt that much good is being done at these institutions and many residents have benefited from the treatment provided by the medical officers to patients applying for relief. We read in the report for the past year that in the out-patient department the total number treated was 15,982 individual cases and the total number of attendances 28,013. "While in the last few years increased facilities have been provided throughout the Colony for Chinese who wish to avail themselves of Western medical treatment, there has yet been a steady increase in the number of out-patients treated at the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals. As a large proportion of the cases are surgical and ophthalmic, the expense of carrying on the work is considerable—of the out-patients 5,211 required surgical dressings, while in the wards about 10,000 cases were surgically dressed—making a total of 15,000." These figures speak for themselves and are eloquent evidence of the unostentatious but none the less invaluable work which is being quietly done at the various affiliated hospitals. One member of the Committee stated that subscriptions have been collected for the installation of a Roniger Rays outfit, which should prove an important addition to the surgical appliances. Altogether, it is satisfactory to know that the Colony is provided with these institutions whose work is specially concerned with the alleviation of pain and suffering in women and children, and it is to be hoped that those who are in a position to influence the minds of the dwindling Chinese class which still bears a preju-

dice towards Western medical treatment will use their power in that direction, not forgetting at the same time to assist the financial position of the hospitals.

#### JAPAN'S FINANCIAL POSITION.

(28th February.)

An illuminating address on the financial position and trade prospects was given by the Governor of the Bank of Japan at a meeting held recently. There was a highly optimistic note in the Governor's speech, and from the statistics quoted and the general trend of affairs in Japan there seems to be every reason for the optimism. But Japan has not yet recovered from the effects of the recent war, and it is quite clear that at the end of last year the business houses were greatly indebted to the banks for temporary assistance in meeting their liabilities. The Governor stated that at the end of December last, owing to the temporary concurrence of demands from the banks for accommodation to settle the year's accounts, it resulted that on the last day of the year the Bank of Japan's loans aggregated 115 millions; its note issue passed 341 millions and its excess above the legal limit reached 74 millions. The main feature of the year was the great development in the working of private enterprises. No mention is made of the important step taken by the sugar refineries in amalgamating, with the object of reducing expenses and forming a close combine to deprive the foreign product of its influence on the local markets. But probably that combination, together with others which have been arranged with less publicity, accounts for the fact that there was a diminution of \$69,750,000 yen in the imports in 1906 as compared with the preceding year, while the exports showed an increase of 102,220,000 yen over those of 1905, or an increase of 32,460,000 yen over the whole trade of the year. A comparatively large part of this sum may be attributed to the fact that last year a large proportion of the army in the North had returned to industrial life, whereas in the previous year the country was suffering from the denudation of the country of the working class population. It is also explained that the imports during the period of the war consisted in large measure of naval and military material. With reference to the export trade several reasons are given for its expansion. The principal of them doubtless was, said the Governor, the prosperous condition of trade in the countries of the Orient, which caused an augmented demand for Japanese goods, and the gradual development of commercial marts in China and Korea. Moreover, another factor that must not be lost sight of was, the activity of the producing centres. Sericulture, it is mentioned, was an unqualified success, the quality of the silk being exceptionally good. "Similarly, earnest endeavour was shown in the fields of cotton spinning, habutae weaving, copper and coal production and sugar refining, and the resulting large development of the volume of production may be regarded as an important cause of the growth of exports." With regard to the burden of foreign loans incurred in consequence of the war, the Governor remarked that "so far as the discharge of this debt is concerned no cause for uneasiness exists." But, he added, "an inevitable result is that an addition has had to be made to our countrymen's load of taxation, and in order to carry the load easily, as well as to promote the further development of the country's fortunes, it is essential that the nation's producing capacity should be increased and its stock of capital supplemented. The way to increase production is to encourage the growth of profitable undertakings." The Governor did not view with much graciousness the policy of contracting foreign loans, regarding the development of such a prevalent disposition as "an evil." However, certain improvements which had been made in the equalisation of the rates of interest between the head and branch offices, and other reforms were, in his opinion, calculated to induce companies to increase their capital and extend their undertakings by means of loans raised in Japan. On the whole, then, the financial position of the country may be regarded as perfectly sound from the bankers' point of view, while the commercial outlook is satisfactory. The great danger into which the country may drift, in these days of the rapid development of industrial concerns, is that of initiating bubble companies for the exploitation of impossible projects. As a race the Japanese are accounted shrewd and cautious, but other peoples, believed to be equally as astute, have, in times of unwonted prosperity, been induced to embark in amazing schemes, simply because the craze to acquire wealth quickly was in the air. Such a danger may be visionary but is certainly not to be deemed wholly imaginary.

#### PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

(1st March.)

After all the trouble which has arisen over the construction of the Panama Canal by the American Government, it has been resolved that private contractors are either not competent or seek exorbitant prices to undertake the work. At this distance, it is probably not considered possible that any one can judge the merits of the question, but the broad facts of the situation are open to all. Would it be unwise to ask whether the States think that it can do cheaper than the contractors expect? Or would it be unwise to suggest that the contractors believe that under the aegis of the Government they can secure benefits which might not accrue under ordinary conditions? Despite the fact

## The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.  
ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1907.

### THE PEACE OF THE WORLD.

(23rd February.)

On Monday, Reuter's communicated the fact of the visit of Professor de Martens, the famous Russian lawyer, to London in furtherance of the object of The Hague Peace Conference. The same telegram announced that yesterday week the Russian peace delegate had a prolonged audience with the King, and his mission to the British capital was of a most satisfactory nature. From home exchanges received by the last mail some further particulars are gathered of the arrangements which are sought to be reached to secure the peace of the world. The *Morning Leader*, while



that President Roosevelt has been there, and submitted an extraordinarily long document—with illustrations, which were refused—to the Senate, no one who has been in that part of the world can blink their knowledge of the exceptional nature of the work. It is true that a certain section of the populace has strenuously and successfully objected to the importation of Chinese coolies as labourers on the line, and, no doubt, those who know nothing of the Chinese beyond their capabilities as washermen and laundry men, are quite prepared to believe that the introduction of indentured coolies is inadvisable. But where are they to get their labour from, unless it be that some of the curious races which inhabit the isthmus are prepared to renounce their idle ways and enjoy what is deemed civilised prosperity. The admirable Governor of Jamaica has made it incumbent on the American authorities that each labourer shall be provided for on his return, and, naturally, the Chinese Government is no less in its care for the subjects of the Empire. But that only brings us to the point that if the American contractors have failed to come up to expectations, how can the American Government hope to excel experts? It is a well-known fact that national undertakings are accomplished at a much greater cost than those undertaken by private firms. Of municipal works we do not speak, because the system of devolution favours that idea. In fact, cases like Glasgow, Manchester, Boston have proved that the cost of operation can be lowered by effective management. Indeed, one of the planks on the platform of the London County Council Progressives was the amelioration of those who travelled over the bridges and brought cars to their door. To all who believe in self-government the resolution of America is anathema martha. Perhaps, the telegram we publish to-day is ambiguous; perhaps, also, it is not quite fair; but to those who do not belong to that mighty republic, it seems curious as we said before. The cost of the line was, if we mistake not, put down at ten millions; if the U. S. Government takes it in hand, it will be what? And perhaps the contractors *qua* contractors may rejoice.

#### HONGKONG'S SHIPPING.

The current issue of the *Government Gazette* contains the Shipping and Trade Returns of Hongkong for the year 1906. Accompanied as we have been, from year to year, by steady increases in the tonnage of the shipping entering and clearing the port, the tabulated returns by the harbour master now under review present anything but satisfactory information as to the continued prosperity of the Colony from a shipping point of view. As compared with the year 1905, last year shows a total net decrease of 1,437,823 tons accounted for by 23,322 less ships. Detailed, the decreased tonnage is represented by—

Ship	Tonnage
British Ocean-going	98,485
British River-steamers	1,047,115
Steamships under 60 tons	922
(Foreign trade)	31,166
Junks in Foreign trade	5,322
Steam-launches plying in the Colony	4,133
Junks in Local Trade	11,651

Thus giving a grand total of 23,322 ships of 2,718,553 aggregate tons. Deducting from these figures the comparative increase for 1905 of 2,181,730 tons, we arrive at the net total decrease for the year of 23,322 ships of an aggregate tonnage of 1,437,823. The most significant figures in the returns, however, are the diminution in the number of British vessels with a corresponding decrease in tonnage, while our foreign competitors show an increase of nearly double the equivalent in the decreased number of British ships with a total tonnage two and a half times as great as the decrease accounted for by the British ships. In the absence of the Harbour Master's official explanation supplementary of these preliminary returns it can only be surmised that the bulk of the increase represented by foreign vessels is to be traced to the return of the large Japanese liners to the European and Pacific as well as the Australian trades after the release of these vessels from the transport service by the Japanese Government as a result of the conclusion of the war. The falling-off in the British tonnage for ocean steamers is not so easily accounted for, and without any official statement in support of an explanation to venture one would be purely a matter of conjecture. It is to be hoped, however, that when the explanation is forthcoming it will be discovered that British supremacy in the Far Eastern trade is not suffering as a result of the strenuous competition exerted by rivals in the field of shipping enterprise. The falling off in the tonnage of the British steamers and launches, employed in trade within and outside the limits of the territorial waters of the Colony, may be almost wholly accounted for by the disastrous typhoons which visited the Colony in September of last year. It will be remembered that the Canton and West River traffic was almost wholly disorganised for a period of two months following the typhoon of the 18th September. Subsequent to that the burning of the *Hankow* caused the withdrawal of the largest British steamer from the Canton River traffic. The foundering of the *Kuomintang*, the *Tak Hing* and the *Wingchong* deprived the returns from being augmented by the entries and clearances of these and other smaller vessels formerly plying on the river trade. The almost total extinction of the junk and cargo boat fleets besides the loss of a large number of launches in the harbour on the morning of the 18th September supplies the explanation for the deficiency set opposite the headings of "Steamships under 60 tons" and "Junks." On the whole, therefore, although the figures for the past year afford no cause for gratification, they do not, in the light of the foregoing remarks, furnish ground for a conclusive pessimism that the prosperity of the port is on the road to decline.

#### CRICKET.

##### LEAGUE TABLE.

The following is the League Table up to date—

Club	Matches	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Craigengower	13	6	3	3	0	16
Hongkong Police	13	7	4	3	0	22
Kowloon	9	6	3	3	0	21
Civil Service	10	5	3	2	0	18
H.K.C.C. "A"	12	5	3	2	0	16
Army Staff	12	5	3	2	0	15
Z. G. A.	8	3	4	0	0	8
Royal Engineers	12	6	10	0	0	12

#### TELEGRAMS.

##### "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" (SERVICE).

##### SHANGHAI ASSAULT CASE.

##### AN APPEAL SUGGESTED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 23rd February, 11.5 a.m.

The Circuit Court of Appeals has issued a mandate releasing Price on a bond of \$4,000 pending an appeal against the judgment of the lower Court.

[In this case S. P. Price was charged with carrying two revolvers within the limits of the Settlement, contrary to Municipal By-law No. 17, at 5.15 p.m., on July 24, 1906; unlawfully threatening to shoot and kill one A. Jovanen within the limits of the premises of the St. George's Hotel at the same time and place; and with unlawfully threatening to shoot and kill one G. E. Farrel at the same time and place.—Ed., H.K.T.]

##### CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

##### SPECIAL COMMISSIONER APPOINTED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 25th February, 2.40 p.m.

It is reported in mandarin circles that H.E. Tang Shao-yi will proceed to Canton shortly to settle the matters at variance between the shareholders and the directors of the Canton-Hankow Railway.

##### OBITUARY.

##### MR. S. MOUTRIE DEAD.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 25th February, 2.40 p.m.

Mr. Sydenham Moutrie, managing director of Messrs. S. Moutrie & Co., is dead.

##### THEATRE EMEUTE.

##### TAOTAI OFFERS INDEMNITY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 26th February, 3.5 p.m.

The Customs Taotai at Hankow has offered an indemnity of \$3,000 to the proprietor of the theatre which was damaged the other day by Wuchang soldiery.

##### BLUEJACKETS LANDED.

News has just come to hand by down river steamers, that what might have been a serious riot took place at Hankow on the 16th inst., says the *Shanghai Mercury*. It appears that a performance was being given at a large Chinese theatre, and a number of bold soldiers came along, having crossed over from Wuchang on leave. They, relying on their uniforms, attempted to enter the theatre without paying the necessary admission fee. On this proceeding the door-keepers objected and the soldiers were thrown out. They were soon re-inforced by a number of their comrades and they commenced to bombard the play house with stones and missiles of all descriptions, after which they proceeded to wreck the place, which was soon demolished. The police were soon on the scene fully armed and they scattered the bold marauders in short order, and managed to capture three of them who were soon safely under lock and key in the Municipal Police Station. The soldiers, who were soon re-informed then made an attack on the Municipal buildings which were being guarded by 5th Police. In the meantime the British Consul had sent word of the disturbance to H.M.S. *Nightingale*, and a party of men was quickly landed, fully armed, and they quickly scattered the mob. The British Consul had also sent word of the occurrence over to the officials at Wuchang, and a number of them hurriedly came over to Hankow and took charge of the three prisoners and had them taken to their quarters where they were dealt with by the military authorities. During the attack on the theatre, a couple of foreigners, one of whom is said to be the Engineer of the *Co Works*, were passing and were slightly injured by some of the missiles that were hurled through the air. Beyond the wrecking of the theatre and a few broken windows in the Municipal Buildings, no further damage was done. Everything was quiet at 6 p.m.

##### RAILWAY COLLISION.

##### EIGHT LIVES LOST.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 26th February, 8.5 p.m.

A collision has occurred between trains on the Pinghsiang-Hiangton railway.

Eight lives were lost.

Thirty-six passengers were injured.

##### SIR ROBERT HART.

##### ADIEUX TO THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 28th February, 2.40 p.m.

Sir Robert Hart, the Inspector-General of the Imperial Customs of China, had a farewell audience of the Throne to-day prior to his departure on eighteen months furlough.

#### CHINA MERCHANTS' S. N. CO.

##### IMPORTANT NEW PROPOSAL.

CANTON WILL BE ASKED.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 1st March, 2.40 p.m.

A special meeting of the shareholders of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company was held yesterday, with the object of electing representatives to register the Company under the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce.

A meeting with the same purpose will be held at Canton shortly.

It is proposed that if delegates are appointed there they should co-operate with a similar aim in view.

##### SHANGHAI EXHIBITION.

##### SCHEME FOR 1908.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Shanghai, 2nd March, 12.20 p.m.

It is proposed to hold an international exhibition of commerce at Shanghai, about the end of 1908.

The China Association are the promoters, and it is hoped that the Chamber of Commerce will support the scheme.

The help of the American, German and Japanese associations is also being solicited.

##### GREEN ISLAND CEMENT CO.

##### MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Green Island Cement Company, Limited, was held at the office of the general manager, Messrs. Shaw, Tomes and Company, at eleven o'clock this forenoon. There were present—Mr. R. Shaw (the chair), Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Dr. J. W. Noble, Sir Paul Chater, consulting committee; Captain W. E. Clarke, Messrs. R. Hancock, F. Ellis, A. H. M. Silva and R. Henderson, secretary.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts for 1906 were issued to you on the 25th February, and as I presume you are all quite familiar with their contents, I will not read them now, unless you desire me to do so. Our working account shows a slightly higher profit, but the amount for dividend is less owing principally to the fact that 1905 commenced with a balance at credit of profit and loss of some \$55,000, brought forward from 1904, while 1906 began with only \$52,000. The final result, however, is that we are able to pay \$368,500 away in dividends this year against a total dividend and bonus last year of \$375,000, not a very great difference. As ample provision has been made for depreciation we only propose to place a nominal sum to reserve fund which being invested in our business is really additional capital, and not actual funds kept in reserve as it should be. The result of the year's work is, I trust, satisfactory to shareholders, but it would undoubtedly have been worse owing to the course of exchange which enabled cement makers at home to offer their brands out here at lower silver prices, prices which we, of course, were forced to meet or lose the business. When I have not been for our increased output which effected this reduction in prices. In other words, we did a larger business to make up for lower prices. As for the future, I cannot say that we have begun well, and that our present prospects are very good, if exchange does not hit us any harder. The consumption of cement, as every engineer will tell you, has increased, is increasing, and will increase. The use of "portland cement" is growing rapidly all over the world, and should be especially in favour out here where our buildings are so subject to the attacks of white ants, dry rot, etc. The rotary kilns which we added last year took longer than we anticipated to get into thorough working order, but they are causing little trouble now and their output is giving us the greatest satisfaction. In fact they have produced so much more than was anticipated that we enabled the grinding plant to keep up with them we had to order additional mills. These with the new Belter House Extension and Messrs. Saw Mill Building, practically account for the expenditure of \$160,000 at H.K. when, as I told you last year, we did not expect to spend more money. Another lakh has been spent at Macao, but it has been well spent on economies from which we are making an excellent saving in working expenses. As you are all aware a cement plant which was intended for erection to Manchuria, but which had been landed here during the war, was offered for sale in London last year, and as it was for obvious reasons desirable that the case should be removed, was far from complete, should not be put into other hands, we decided to acquire it for this company. It is now in course of erection, and will, when completed, add two more rotary kilns to the present two, just doubling the output of our rotary. We shall not, of course, commence running this plant until circumstances require it, but if the consumption of cement continues to grow, as it has done in the last year or two, it should not be a bad thing to have in the meantime the loss of interest is not very serious. This, with the expenditure I have mentioned at H.K. and Macao and about \$7,000 at Deep Water Bay, where we have added a large pile machine, accounts for nearly \$600,000. In addition to this we had on 31st December \$136,000 more than last year owing by sundry debtors, \$50,000 more spent on launches and lighters, mostly for cost of two new lighters, and about \$240,000 more in stocks of cement and new material on hand equal to \$240,000, making a total expenditure of over \$1,000,000. Our stock of cement is large, but not too large for our purposes, as new cement takes a long time to mature, and thus we are compelled to carry large quantities in stock. We cannot, as you quite understand, afford to allow green cement to go out of the factory. In this way the \$500,000 we received from you for new capital and the increase of nearly six lakhs in the overdraft at the bank is accounted for. The payment of the dividend will increase the latter by \$250,000, and this brings me to the old question of more funds, for we cannot go on doing a bigger and a bigger business without more and more capital, and we cannot always depend on borrowing money from our bankers. We

require roughly \$1,000,000 to make us comfortable, and to get this we propose to issue 200,000 shares to shareholders, one new for one old, calling up on each \$5.50 in one payment in July next, and to raise these shares to \$10, paid up, we propose crediting a call of \$4.50 on them, which will absorb \$900,000 out of the reserve fund, which will then be reduced to \$100,000. I hope I have made it clear to you that this proposal means that shareholders will only be asked to provide \$5.50 per share in cash, the \$4.50 being given them from the reserve fund, and I trust that this plan which, of course, will be brought before shareholders in the usual way at an extraordinary meeting later on will commend itself to you. This would raise the capital to \$4,000,000, but I must again remind those who think that another similar factory could be started at once and run for the same capital that this does not by any means represent all that was, I will not say lost, but consumed at the outset in making experiments and gaining experience, and all of which was written off *en bloc* when the company at last began to get on its legs. It is an experience which every new factory must expect to encounter, and which it will have to take into account and pay for out of capital, and had we not dealt with it in the beginning, our own capital would have been very much larger. I would also suggest that the fee for the consulting committee, which has stood at the low figure of \$1,000, since the beginning, should now be raised to a figure more commensurate with the increased business we are doing, say to \$4,000 per annum. I think I have now laid a fair statement of what we have been doing during the past year as I can, without going too deeply into details, but I shall be glad to amplify it if any shareholder is not clear on any point. I must add, before I sit down, that the erection and construction of such new plant and machinery has thrust a great deal of extra work on Mr. Udall, the manager, and Mr. Hemitt, the engineer in charge, at H.K. and that we feel much indebted to them for the cheerfulness with which they have given up their spare time and the readiness of resource with which they have met all difficulties inseparable to new work with unskilled labour, in all of which they have been well supported by the manager at Macao, Mr. Hayes, and the staffs at both places. There were no questions asked.

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Dr. J. W. Noble seconded.

Carried.

Mr. R. Hancock proposed that Sir Paul Chater, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Dr. J. W. Noble be re-elected to the consulting committee.

Mr. F. Ellis seconded.

Carried unanimously.

Captain W. E. Clarke proposed that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin be re-elected auditors for the coming year.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman said: That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants are ready now. The meeting then ended.

##### ALLEGED "HOLD UP."

##### WATER POLICE ENGINEER ARRESTED.

28th February.

Leung Yu, an engineer, employed at the Water Police Station, Tsing-tai-tui, figured very prominently in the dock at the Police Court, this morning, to answer a charge of highway robbery. The complainant was Leung Fu, a contractor, carrying on business at No. 103, Kramer Street, Tai-kok-ai. The "hold up" was alleged to have taken place near the reclamation works. The story told Sergeant Sim, of Sam-shui-po Police Station, by the contractor, was to the effect that yesterday afternoon after paying off his sampan, for he had just returned from Mongkok, he started to return to his home. At the time he was wearing a gold chain, attached to which was one gold sovereign, two half sovereigns, one gold cash, one silver claw, and three gold ear-picks, the lot he valued at \$50. The chain was hanging from a button hole in his coat. When he reached the road, after his climb from the beach, he saw the Water Police man walking in the direction of Tsing-tai-tui. The contractor was passing the man when he was seized by the queue and struck with a truncheon. He was hit on the head, shoulder and ribs. Then, according to the contractor, accused snatched the gold chain and dashed down the road. Yelling "thief" at the top of his voice, he pursued the man, who was arrested by two other persons who had heard the cries. The accused denied the charge. Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, who heard the case, held accused in \$500 bail for trial.

##### ALLEGED THEFT OF CIGARETTES.

##### HIGH BAIL REQUIRED.

At the Magistracy, to-day, before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, Charles Humphrey Kane, ship clerk, and Hon. Kwai, tallyman, in the employ of the British-American Tobacco Company, were charged with the larceny of tobacco and cigarettes, valued at \$3,625, the property of the company. A shopkeeper, named Li Tat Chiu, and his assistant, Li Cheung, were charged with receiving the goods, knowing them to have been stolen. Practically all the property had been recovered by the West Point police. The case was remanded until Tuesday next in order to give time to prepare the case. Bail was refused. Both receivers pleaded not guilty and were remanded; bail of \$2,500 each being allowed.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared for the prosecution on all charges, and Mr. P. W. Goldring, of Messrs. Goldring and Barlow, defended the two men for receiving the property. Inspector Collett conducted the case on behalf of the police.

##### SUICIDE ON THE HILLSIDE.

##### CHINESE WOMAN FOUND HANGING FROM TREE.

A young Chinese woman, who was later identified as Hung Chung Tai, was found at ten o'clock yesterday morning hanging to the end of a piece of rope on the hillside at Wat-tai-wai, Hangchow. The woman's body was found by a Chinese policeman, who was on duty at the time. One end of the rope was attached to the branch of a tree; the other end was knotted securely beneath her chin. Her feet were, but a few inches above the ground, which explains the fact that the woman had evidently stood upon a stool, adjusted the knot and kicked the support from under her. She was cut down and removed to the Kowloon mortuary, where it was certified that she had died of strangulation. No definite reason for the suicide has been offered. The Hangchow police say, it is stated, but there is one theory for the woman ending her life in such a manner—and that is domestic troubles.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE PARSEE COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."—SIR,—By the courtesy of His Excellency the Governor I am empowered to hand you for publication the following telegram:—From Minister, Teheran, to Governor, Hongkong.

26th February, 10.50 a.m.

"Please assure Parsee community Persian Government taking energetic steps protection Parsees."

"SPRING-RICE."

I am, etc.

H. N. MODY.

Hongkong, 27th February, 1907.

##### PARSEE APPRECIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."—SIR,—In your yesterday's paper there appears a telegram, received by His Excellency the Governor, from the British Minister at Teheran, by command of His Majesty the Shah of Persia, desiring His Majesty's protection to every Parsee in his dominion or wherever they may be. Let me suggest, through your paper, that a meeting of the Parsee Community should be called at the first opportunity at our "Parsee Club premises," under the leadership of Mr. H. N. Mody, to consider about the telegram and if possible to pass a proposition to reply to the Shah through His Excellency the Governor, thanking him for his kind desires and also of his devoted love (like his late lamented Royal Father) to his faithful Parsee subjects.—Yours faithfully,

BE JUST AND FEAR NOT.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1907.

##### HIS WIFE'S LODGER.

##### THREATENED SHOOTING AFFAIR ACROSS THE WATER.

A certain European gentleman, whose name it was decided would not appear in this report, got himself into a glorious condition last night and at midnight decided to cross the stream to return to his happy home. He arrived there safely, but was out in a minute, bound for the nearest district police station. There was a queer look about his eyes—he was shivering with rage. He swung into the charge-room of the station as the clocks were chiming One. An officer was busy at his desk.

"Look here, officer," said the European, "as he entered, 'There is going to be a murder committed in this district before many hours have passed!'"

The officer dropped his pen and gazed at the speaker in astonishment. At the same time he felt his hip pocket for something, which was not there.

"Oh, indeed," said the officer when he had completely recovered himself.

"There is no 'no indeed' about it," said the man.

"Well, may I ask who is going to do the shooting?" queried the officer.

"I am," came the reply.

"And who is the person that's going to die?"

"My wife!" returned the European.

"Thanks very much for the information," said the officer. "It will save us much trouble, not to say worry."

"Don't mention it, sergeant," said the European as he left the station.

The officer ascended the staircase leading to his room three at a time, grabbed his belt, buckled it round his waist and started down the road after the European, at the same time taking good care to keep under the side-walk and out of sight. After about half a mile walk the European was seen to disappear into a house. The officer quickened his pace, and arrived at the foot of the stairway as his man entered the house.

"I'll remain here," said the wise officer, "until the shooting is over. I will interfere when their stock of ammunition is exhausted. I am not taking any risks of getting punctured accidentally. I don't like this business of interfering in husband and wife affair for I might get it from both sides."

He waited for several minutes with his ear to the partition, without the sound of a gunshot. He was about to retire when he heard a quarrel being conducted above. When the voices grew louder and louder, until the chances of rousing the neighbourhood looked possible, the officer entered the room.

"Look here, sergeant," said the European, springing up from his seat, "I want you to arrest a man."

"Don't get excited," said the officer. "Why do you want me to arrest somebody? What has he done?"

"The man is in this building. He has been making love to my wife—alienating her affections—and I want him locked up."

"Making love to a woman is no offence," said the officer. "If he stole her, it would be a different thing."

The wife who had been sitting listening to the conversation all the while, chimed in at this stage, and made matters busy for a time. She denied that she had made love to anybody, and the police believed her. Her husband, she said, left her unsupported for several months, until finding it impossible to provide for himself and her young ones she decided to take in boarders. This she did. She had only one left now. She made no love to him, anyway, she asserted. The lodger got very excited when he heard his name taken in vain and threatened to pack up and leave "at once."

When the officer looked round to hear what the visitor had to say he found him fast asleep; there was no sign of further trouble; the lodger retired to his room, and the lady of the house showed the officer out, to his satisfaction, and the rest of the morning was passed quietly.

##### CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-fourth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general manager on Wednesday, 13th inst., at 11 o'clock a.m., is as follows:—

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

The net profit is \$27,367.77 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows, viz:—

To place to Reserve Fund...\$1,000,000

To pay a dividend of \$1 per share...26,000,000

To carry forward to the credit of next year's account...365.77

The S. S. *Ando* and *Zafro* ran regularly and very satisfactorily throughout the year, but both passenger and cargo were much scarcer than before. Our gross income shows a very heavy falling off and it has only been by exercising the strictest economy and cutting down expenses that we are able to show a surplus.

##### CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. D. E. Brown resigned on leaving the Colony, and Dr. J. W. Noble was invited to take his place on the Consulting Committee, in accordance with the articles of association.

Messrs. N. A. Shaw, H. P. White, A. V. Apper and Dr. J. W. Noble retire but offer themselves for re-election.

#### AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin, the latter having been asked to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. Arnold. Messrs. W. H. Potts and A



## HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

## ANNUAL MEETING.

25th February.  
The ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., was held in the offices of the company, Queen's Building, at 12 o'clock noon, to-day, for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors and the statement of accounts up to the 31st December, 1906. There were present Sir Paul Chater (chairman), the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. E. Goetz, A. Haupt, G. H. Medhurst, N. A. Siebs, S. Silverstone, J. S. Van Buren, D. W. Craddock, and H. P. White (directors); W. Wilson (acting chairman), T. I. Rose (secretary), R. J. Anday, J. P. Braga, C. de Champey, Chai Siu Ki, Choo Lee Chee, Capt. W. E. Clarke, Messrs. Albert Denison, F. E. Ellis, E. George, Ho Fook, W. C. Jack, E. J. May, S. H. Michael, S. J. Michael, E. J. Moses, W. Parlane, Thomas Skinner, H. Percy Smith, W. H. Wickham, and A. G. Wood.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.  
The Chairman then said:—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will, with your permission, take them at once, and then set on foot the half-year ending 31st December, 1906, amount to \$565,596.36 as compared with \$405,356.44 for the first six months of the year, and \$171,649.37 for the corresponding period of 1905. To this sum must be added the sum of \$392,873.38, the balance brought forward from last account, and after deducting directors' and auditors' fees we have available for appropriation the sum of \$750,933.74, which sum your directors propose, subject to your approval, to deal with as follows:—To pay a dividend for the half-year of 12 per cent. on \$6 per share, amounting to \$3,600,000, to be paid on the 1st day of January, 1907, and to carry forward the balance, \$400,933.74, to a new account. Appropriations, which will, your directors trust, meet the wishes of the shareholders. While in view of the disastrous typhoons which occurred in September last, and the vast amount of work for the Company resulting therefrom, it may at first sight appear that our earnings for the past six months are somewhat less than might have been reasonably expected, it must be borne in mind that the whole of this year has not yet been completed, and consequently the period now under review does not represent the full benefit thereof, several large repairs jobs remain yet to be done and the profits arising therefrom will come into the accounts for the current six months, and while on this subject it may be interesting to you to learn to what extent we ourselves suffered by these same typhoons. Gentlemen, I am pleased to state that the amount of damage done to your property was comparatively slight, amounting in all only some \$53,800. Two of our launches were submerged; they have since been raised and fully repaired at a cost of \$9,200, which sum has been placed to the credit of Marine Insurance A/c. The caissons, sea-walls, wharves, buildings, etc., at our three establishments sustained damage to the extent of about \$44,600, of which \$17,132 has already been paid for repairs executed and passed to the debit of Working A/c, leaving \$27,468 to be expended during the current six months; taking into consideration the tremendous havoc wrought by the blow of the 18th September throughout the Colony, but more particularly on the Kowloon side, I think it is a matter for congratulation that we escaped without sustaining far heavier damage. The tonnage of British and Foreign merchant vessels docked during the past six months shows a decrease of 73,500 tons, a falling off largely attributable to the arrival in the Philippines of the Floating Dock, not a single American vessel having come to us for docking since then. On the other hand, the tonnage of merchant vessels shows an increase over the previous six months of some 10,098 tons, the tonnage docked since 1st July being for this class of vessel 466,360 tons. While we have not been engaged in the construction of any large vessels lately a glance at our report will show that we have been busy in the building yard, quite a number of small craft having been turned out and others are now nearing completion; this work together with the repairs to the numerous vessels damaged in September last has kept us fully employed for months past. Towage and Dredger A/c.—You will be pleased to see once more on the right side of the accounts. The value of "materials on hand" is about the same as in the last account, while work in progress shows an increase of about \$82,000. The purchase of the land at Kowloon referred to at our private meeting in August last is completed, and we have taken under consideration tenders for the work of removing the hill and lengthening the No. 1 Dock. We propose carrying on this work with our own staff, and as I have already mentioned, recommend passing the first sum of \$50,000 to an account specially to defray the cost of this undertaking and we hope to be able to carry it through without making any call upon shareholders for increased capital. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any question you may wish to ask.

No questions were asked.  
Mr. A. C. Wood, in seconding, said:—Mr. Chairman, I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution, which must I think be considered satisfactory. It is also satisfactory to learn that we suffered comparatively little loss from last September's typhoon, while there is still an amount of work in hand arising from that calamity. I am sure that our shareholders have heard with pleasure what you have told us about the dock extension now being taken in hand. Many may perhaps agree with me in regretting that we are at the commencement of the work instead of at its completion; we would have then been in so much better a position to meet the increased competition we have to expect. I understand that Sir Paul Chater is vacating the chair which he has occupied for four years. So I ask you to join me in thanking him for the valuable services he, with the assistance of his colleagues, has rendered to the Company, and in hoping that his successor's labours in the chair will continue to promote its success. I do not know that I can suggest a more efficient spur than by pointing to the fact that at this time last year our shares were quoted at \$163 and now they are at \$140. I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The report and accounts were adopted unanimously.  
Mr. George moved that the appointment of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson and Mr. D. W. Craddock to the directorate be confirmed.  
Mr. A. Denison seconded and the motion was carried.  
Captain Clarke moved the re-election of Mr. N. A. Siebs and the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson.  
Mr. Jack seconded and the motion was adopted.  
Mr. Parlane moved the re-appointment of Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and H. Percy Smith as auditors.  
Mr. Ho Fook seconded and the motion was adopted.  
The Chairman—Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow. Thank you for your presence. The meeting then ended.

## CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-eighth ordinary meeting, to be held at the Company's offices on Thursday, the 7th March, 1907, at 12 o'clock noon, is as follows:—

The directors have now the pleasure to submit their annual report and statement of the Company's accounts made up to 31st December, last.

1905.—The balance at credit of working account as per last report was—\$344,098.98  
Add premium since received—23,427.26  
Deduct claims paid in 1905—\$1,070.05  
Deduct return premium, &c., &c.—15,025.16  
Balance of profit—\$361,431.05

It is proposed to apportion this sum as follows:—  
Dividend of \$6 and bonus of \$2 per share on 20,000 shares—\$1,600,000.00  
To add to investment fluctuation account—5,000.00  
To add to extra reserve fund, which will then stand at—\$320,440.65  
Bonus to office staff—\$4,509.42

1906.—The balance at credit of Working Account at the close of this year was \$362,980.65, which is a satisfactory increase compared with the previous Report.

DIRECTORS.  
Messrs. E. Shellim, R. Shewan and H. W. Slade resigned their seats on leaving the Colony and Messrs. D. M. Nissim, A. Babington and G. Balloch were appointed to fill the vacancies.

On the return of Mr. R. Shewan, Mr. A. Babington resigned, and the former gentleman was invited to rejoin the Board. These appointments will require the confirmation of shareholders.

Messrs. A. G. Wood and E. Goetz retire, by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

A. HAUPT, Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1906.

To Charge Account:—Rent, salaries, legal and surveyors' fees, taxes, stamps, stationery, &c.—\$44,183.01  
Directors' and auditors' fees—7,400.00

To Commission Account:—Agents' commissions—44,896.06

To Exchange Account:—Difference in exchange—640.82

To Losses Account 1906:—Claims after deduction of re-insurances—58,107.56

To Amount written off:—Furniture account—100.00

To Balance—362,980.65

\$518,308.10

By Premium Account:—Premiums after deduction of re-insurances—\$37,741.05

By Interest Account:—Amount at credit, including interest due on deposits and investments, &c.—145,447.07

By Transfer Fee Account:—Amount at credit—119.98

\$518,308.10

BALANCE SHEET, 31ST DECEMBER, 1906.

Capital Account:—\$400,000.00

Reserve Fund:—1,000,000.00

Extra reserve fund—320,440.65

Investment Fluctuation Account—346.05

Accounts Payable:—Dividend for 1905 \$160,000.00

Losses outstanding and sundries—\$2,531.37

Working Account, 1906:—Balance at Credit—362,980.65

\$2,531,307.72

Assets.

Cash at Bankers—\$46,894.59

Fixed Deposits at Banks:—H'kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation—178,544.83

Chartered Bank of India, A. & C.—30,000.00

Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.—20,000.00

International Banking Corporation—25,000.00

253,544.83

Investments:—Chinese Imp. Govt. E. Bonds—70,919.29

Hongkong Club Debentures—33,300.00

Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., Debentures—50,000.00

Shai Land Investment Co., Ltd., Debentures—49,877.40

Shai Waterworks Co., Ltd., Debentures—8,472.22

Shares in Public Companies—129,115.00

341,703.91

Loans on Mortgage:—On Properties in Hongkong—1,514,300.00

On Properties on Shamoon, Canton—50,000.00

1,564,300.00

Furniture Account:—Office Furniture, &c.—843.13

Accounts Receivable:—Premium due from Agencies, Interest due on Deposits and Investments, &c.—89,021.29

\$2,531,307.72

OPIMUM STOPPAGES.

AN IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT DECISION.

We have been courteously favoured with a communication which reads as follows:—

Among articles and letters in your paper which testify to the great interest taken in the Indian opium trade, it will be of interest to you to know that the Indian Government have decided that the quantity of opium to be sold at monthly public sales will be reduced by 200 chests of Patna and of Penares, which is less than at present. The total sales for the year will therefore be 48,000, instead of 52,800 chests, formerly sold.

## MARINE COURT.

## UNLICENSED COXSWAIN RECEIVES HIS DESERTS.

At the Marine Court this morning, Lieut. C. W. Beckwith, R.N., Harbour Master and Marine Magistrate, an unlicensed coxswain, who held no certificate, was charged by Inspector Langley, with disobeying the lawful orders of the Harbour-master by taking charge of the steam launch *Lee Fat* after his certificate had been suspended by the Harbour-master. Inspector Langley said that the defendant was charged only to recently as on the 12th inst., before his Worship, and on proof of his being the one to blame in a matter of a narrow escape from a serious collision in the harbour, had his certificate suspended for three months. Notwithstanding that, he went back on board, and, it was believed, had been working just as usual since then. Constable Berrie said that he was patrolling the harbour this morning when he saw the launch *Lee Fat* crossing. The defendant said that the launch was on all speed and signalled the *Lee Fat* to stop. This, however, the launch clearly showed she had no intention of doing, for she fired up, and clapped on all possible speed to leave the police boat. But they only went from the firing-pan into the fire, for, while they were keenly eyeing their stern-chaser, another chaser was upon them from almost dead ahead, so that the *Lee Fat* found herself between two fires, with the result that she had to surrender at discretion—there was nothing else to do. It was just as suspected; the unlicensed coxswain was on board in charge and his arrest at once followed.

Placed before the Marine Magistrate the accused had nothing to say, beyond admitting that he was before his Worship on the 12th inst., when his certificate was suspended for three months. His Worship said he was determined to put a stop to this sort of things and as a warning and deterrent to others, fined the man \$50, with the alternative of two months' hard labour. The fine was not forthcoming up to the time of going to press.

## A GUILTY INNOCENT.

## FROM A FAR COUNTRY.

A Chinaman from a far province journeyed to Hongkong, to make a fortune on the races. He made all his preparations with considerable forethought, but among his preparations was one which upset his calculation and was nearly the cause of his absence from the "Off-Day" Meet. Apparently his sanguine hopes of a speedy fortune from "White Blaze," or "Black Pansy," did not materialize, for yesterday he walked into Ke Sing pawnbrokers' establishment at No. 185, Queen's Road Central, in order to raise the wind "to carry out his last plunge." To the man behind the counter, he offered what appeared to be a massive gold bangle, and asked for the loan of 50 taels on the security of the trinket. The usual operations were then proceeded with, the pawnbroker freely using his stone and acids, but the gewgaw stood the test, declared itself thereby solid gold. But even yet the "Uncle" was not satisfied; whether it was the demand for only 50 taels for such a massive lump of the precious metal, ostensibly worth ten times as much, or whether it was that the lender wanted to be quite sure beyond a doubt that he was securing something valuable cheap, which would probably not be redeemed, and so, in the fulness of time would bring him in a rich harvest in percentage, cannot of course be said, but at any rate, he was not even then satisfied, and proceeded to bore a hole through the jewel by way of further and final test—and that settled it. The supposed "solid gold" bangle was nothing more than a heavily plated copper curtain ring—worth a few cents only. But Detective Sergeant Terrett, had quietly entered in the meantime and sat himself down to await developments. They were not long in coming. The would-be borrower said that 50 taels he wanted was less than a quarter of the value of the trinket, but he did not want more money, just then. But when "Mine Uncle" said "this is copper," Sergeant Terrett got in his work and arrested the bland "yokel" from the country, much to that youth's apparent astonishment. It was after Court hours and so the accused had to take up his lodgings in a cell—necessarily on the cold, cold ground, for the night. When the day dawned, and the Magistrate took his seat this morning, the man was charged with attempting to obtain money, to wit, \$9, by false pretences.

Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne heard the evidence, but came to the decision that he could not convict the man under the circumstances. If the accused had attempted to palm off the bangle on ignorant private individuals, he might have been convicted him, but a pawnbroker was a man of experience, and it was his business to know all about gold almost at sight. The "innocent" was therefore discharged. It would thus appear that the Hon. Mr. H. J. Gompertz, Attorney-General, was not far wrong when he said, at the last Criminal Sessions, that the criminal classes were probably reserving themselves for the races!

## A GOOD THING.

## RELIVING ON FRIENDS FOR A LIVING.

An aged Chinaman stepped into the witness box at the Police Court this morning to give evidence in a case which was supposed to have come under his notice. The charge against the accused was that of larceny—stealing a jacket from a hawker's stall at noon, yesterday. The old man, who, according to his evidence, saw the whole affair, was a witness for the defence, and as soon as he entered the box he was put "through the mill" and made to tell a few "home truths" about himself.

"What is your occupation?" asked his Worship.

"I've no work," replied the witness.

"How long have you been out of work?"

"Several months."

"Where were you last employed?"

"I was a coolie at the barracks once."

"Where have you been living all this time?"

"With a friend."

"Who is that friend?"

"My friend is employed on board an *Em-press* boat."

"There are several *Em-presses*. Which one did you board?"

"The *Em-press* in Court now?"

"No—he sailed on the 14th of this month."

"Then how did you living with him?"

"I am living in his cubicle. When his ship is in port we share the room," explained the witness.

"How much do you pay for that?"

"I don't pay anything."

"Then who pays rent?"

"I don't."

"How much money have you in this world?"

"Not a cent—do you manage to get along?"

"You see it is this way. I am an old man and my friends, having pity on me, see that I am looked after."

His evidence on the case was then heard, and the defendant was sent to gaol for three weeks and four hours' stocks.

## THE BUILDING AUTHORITY

## AND THE IRON PARTITIONS.

At the Supreme Court on the 25th ulto, before the Full Bench, consisting of their Honours the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Wise, Paines Judge, judgment was given in the matter of the Building Authority, and Fung Chun Un in two cases.

Mr. Wise said:—This matter came before the Full Court by way of appeal on two cases stated by a Police Magistrate.

The facts are shortly as follows:—

On July 13, 1906, a complaint was preferred at the Police Court by the Building Authority against Fung Chun Un, under sections 230 and 231 of the Ordinance, for that he had contravened a notice dated June 29, 1906, requiring him to remove certain illegal wrought iron partitions at Nos. 1, 2, and 5, Hill Road. On the hearing of the said complaint on July 31, 1906, the Magistrate held that the notice was bad because it did not refer to the section of the Ordinance alleged to have been contravened but he convicted Fung Chun Un under section 222, subsection 1 of the same Ordinance for having commenced the building of these partitions without having previously submitted proper plans to the Building Authority, and imposed a fine of \$100, under section 230 of the Ordinance. No objection has been raised as to either of these decisions, so for the purposes of this appeal they stand.

On October 16, 1906, another complaint was preferred at the Police Court by the Building Authority against Fung Chun Un, under section 230 of the Ordinance, for that he had contravened a notice dated September 8, 1906, (duly served on him) requiring him to remove the whole of these partitions which had been erected in contravention of Section 222. For the purposes of this appeal this notice must be taken to be in order. It is admitted that the partitions were erected without the plans having been previously submitted to the Building Authority, and also that subsequently plans were submitted which have been approved by the Magistrate, and on behalf of Fung Chun Un it was contended that in consequence of the previous fine the matter was *res judicata*. On November 13, 1906, the Magistrate decided against the plea of *res judicata*, so that one of the questions before this Court is whether the conviction of July 31, 1906, is not a bar to the complaint of October 16, 1906.

Having decided that point the Magistrate proceeded to consider the case. It was contended on behalf of the Building Authority that the infringement of section 222 of the Ordinance by having erected these partitions without previously submitting plans was a nuisance within the meaning of section 229 of the Ordinance. The Magistrate however on November 20, 1906, decided that a nuisance under section 229 is restricted to a contravention of the structural requirements of the Ordinance and dismissed the complaint. The other question, then, for the decision of this Court, is whether a contravention of section 222 is a nuisance within the meaning of section 229. Those are the facts as stated in the cases on which we have to decide the points of law. We found it convenient to take the second point first.

It is argued on behalf of Fung Chun Un that the Building Authority produced no evidence that the plans as subsequently produced were bad and that therefore he must approve. However it seems to me that the only fact before us is that he did not approve, and that in the absence of anything else we must infer that he had reasons for not approving. It was also contended that these partitions do not interfere with the general structure and that the word "nuisance" in sections 229 and 230 must not be read as "offence."

On referring to section 229 sub-section 3 which reads "Any building or works whatsoever commenced, resumed, altered, or completed in contravention of any of the provisions of this Ordinance," Counsel argued that it ought to be read "Any building or works whatsoever in contravention of any of the provisions of this Ordinance hereafter commenced, resumed, altered or completed." However when the opening words of section 222 sub-section 1 are considered viz., "It shall not be lawful to commence any building or works or to repair or reconstruct any existing building or works etc." it appears to me that the word "altered" in section 229 sub-section 3, must be taken to refer to the "existing building or works" mentioned in section 222 sub-section 1. Then again sub-section 6 of section 229 seems to be wide enough to cover everything viz., "Any act, failure, neglect, omission or refusal whereby any provisions of this Ordinance is contravened." I am therefore of opinion that the Magistrate was wrong on this point, certainly on the grounds he gave for his decision.

As to the question of *res judicata* I am of opinion that the fine is no bar in this case. He was fined first of all for having erected these partitions without having previously submitted plans for the approval of the Building Authority.

A notice was then duly served on him to abate the nuisance which still continue if it is a nuisance as I have held it. To hold otherwise would be to stultify the Ordinance.

Fung Chun Un admitted he started with an intention to contravene the law at present stands, he seems to be continuing it.

I therefore consider that on this point the Magistrate was right.

## THE IMPORTATION OF ARMS INTO CHINA.

The following rules for the prevention of the smuggling of firearms into China by revolutionary associations or members of secret organizations have been passed by the Manchou General T'ieh Liang in his capacity as the Controller-General of the I. M. Customs, and issued by the Inspector-General (Sir R. E. Hart) for enforcement by the Commissioners of Customs at the various Treaty Ports.

1.—If the Chinese Government or any of the Viceroy or Governors want to purchase arms from foreign countries, the Commissioner of the Customs at the port of entry must be notified by the Customs Taotai beforehand, otherwise they cannot pass through the I. M. O. at any of the Treaty Ports of China.

2.—No foreign firm in China is allowed to import more than six rifles and 22,500 cartridges at a time. Full particulars should be recorded in the book of the firm in case the arms are sold or otherwise future investigation purposes by the Commissioner of the Customs at that port if necessary.

3.—The quantity of arms imported into China by any of the foreign firms as examples for the Chinese Government is not to exceed two with 1,000 cartridges, while foreign merchants and other respectable subjects of the Treaty powers are only permitted to import one rifle and 500 cartridges each for self-protection purposes. In all cases the importer must first furnish full particulars to the Commissioner of the Customs at the port of entry prior to the landing of the arms. In the case of firms the importer or manager of the firm is not permitted to sell the arms to other for other purposes.

4.—All descriptions of arms imported into China from foreign countries must pay five per cent. Customs duty at the port of entry.—N. G. D. News.

## OFF-DAY RACES.

STEWARDS.—His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir A. W. Moore, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., His Excellency Maj.-Genl. R. G. Broadwood, C.B., Commodore H. Pigot Williams, R.N., Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G., The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G., Lieut.-Col. A. E. Aitken, The Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson; Mr. J. A. Jupp; Captain F. W. Lyons; Messrs. J. C. Peter; H. P. White; H. E. R. Hunter; G. C. C. Master; and D. Macdonald.

CLERKS OF THE SCALE.—Messrs. H. P. White and D. Macdonald.

HANDICAPERS.—Major H. P. E. Parker and Capt. F. W. Lyons.

JUDGE.—Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G.

STARTER.—The Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G.

SECOND STARTER.—Mr. C. H. Ross.

TIME KEEPER.—Mr. T. S. Forrest.

HON. TREASURER.—Mr. C. W. May.

CLERK OF THE COURSE.—Mr. T. F. Hough.

OFF-DAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

The sun, which during the first three days of the race meeting refused to shine on the gathering at the Happy Valley race-course, shed his welcome warmth and light on the scene this afternoon, when the Off-Day meeting took place. The change in the conditions of the weather, as might have been expected, attracted a very large gathering of spectators. The hour set for the commencement of the first race was two o'clock and by that time the lawn and the grandstand presented a very gay appearance.

His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan arrived in time to witness the commencement of the first race. Upon his arrival the Band of the 3rd Middlesex Regiment played a bar of the National Anthem. H.E. remained throughout the afternoon.

1.—THE "LUCKY" CUP.—Value, \$750. Presented. For all subscription griffins that have run at this meeting and not won a race. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance \$10 to go to second pony. Half a mile.

Father O'Flynn's Dublin 11st 1lb (Vida) 1

Mr. Stewart's Off Chance, 11st 1lb (Gresson) 2

Mr. Stewart's Off Chance, 11st 1lb (Gresson) 3

Messrs. T. F. Hough and R. Shewan's 4

Inverleigh's Hope, 10st 1lb (Clarke) 5

Mr. Hurst's Wicked, 10st 1lb (Clarke) 6

Mr. J. Gray Scott's Whitehaven, 11st 1lb (Clarke) 7

Mr. A. J. Williams' Brython, 11st 1lb (Large) 8

Mr. Magpie's Cherub, 10st 1lb (Dupree) 9

After two false starts, the ponies went away to a start which was considered fair. Off Chance took the lead from the start, followed by Cherub; the remainder bringing up the rear. Round the corner, on the way home, they were bunched and Highland Bonnet, which was ridden hard, looked dangerous. A few yards from the winning post Dublin shot past and ran home a winner by about a length, Highland Bonnet and Off Chance a good second and third, respectively.

Time: 1:21

Winner: \$64.60

Parimutuel: 1st \$12.70; 2nd \$12.70; 3rd \$12.70.

2.—THE VISITORS' CUP.—Presented. For all griffins that have run at this meeting and not won a race. Weight for inches as per scale. Subscription griffins that have run at this meeting and been placed second allowed 3 lb



THE TUNG LOI LANE  
HOLOCAUST.

## CORONER'S INQUIRY.

## ESCAPE ORDINANCE MUST BE ENFORCED.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland presiding as Coroner and a jury, consisting of Messrs. C. Rogers (foreman), T. W. Clarke and H. P. Madar, held an inquiry at the Magistrate's office this afternoon into the circumstances touching the deaths of a number of persons who were killed in a fire which broke out at No. 3, Tung Loi Lane, early on the morning of the 2nd instant; due record of which having already been made in these columns.

Inspector Warnock, of the Central Police Station, and Detective-Sergeant Watt watched proceedings on behalf of the police.

Early on the morning of the 2nd instant, Crown Sergeant Fenton declared, a message was received at the Fire Brigade Station giving notice that a fire had broken out in Tung Loi Lane. Witness was the first European fireman on the scene. When he arrived, on the scene the entire building was on fire and flames were bursting out of every window.

At this stage the Coroner called Mr. Haggard, an engineer from the Public Works Department, who submitted a plan of the building to the Court.

Mr. Hazeland informed the jury that the reason why the inmates of this house were unable to escape was because the bamboo ladder which led to the roof of the house took fire and shut out all means of escape. Mr. Clarke, one of the jurors, asked Mr. Haggard if, for instance, the ladder leading to the roof of this house was made of ordinary wood, instead of bamboo, would it have taken fire so easily. Mr. Haggard replied that it was a question of time. He said that the wood used to make stairways in Chinese houses is usually of such common nature that he doubted whether any Chinese staircase would last long in any fire.

Juryman Clarke, who said he had had previous experience with fires, declared that he was in favour of a moveable ladder, as it was in this case, than one which is a fixture, and liable to take fire quicker than the other. Iron ladders, in his opinion, would not have been any better for with the fire nearby it would get hot and would be impossible to mount.

The Coroner then asked Mr. Clarke for his opinion and said he was pleased to have had a person on the jury who had some experience of fires.

Sergeant Fenton, who is a fireman in the fire brigade, continuing, said that after the fire six charred bodies were found. He also spoke of a few other unfortunate who had to be taken to hospital suffering from burns.

Dr. Heasley, medical officer of the public mortuaries, was the next witness called, and he referred to examining several bodies that were brought to the mortuary, after the fire. He was of opinion that death was due to suffocation and extensive burns.

AN EYE-WITNESS'S STORY.

A Chinese gentleman, who was asleep in one of the upper floors when the fire broke out on the ground floor, told a story of how he rescued six persons from being burnt to death, which was proved by a glance at his hands. Two fingers of each hand were in bandages, the result of severe burns. He said, in telling of what he had gone through during the fire, that on the morning in question he was awakened by the sounds of a police whistle being violently blown in the street. He jumped out of bed and found the room full of smoke. No much time was lost before the flames ate through the floor, and he started to leave the burning building. The main staircase leading to the street was on fire. There was a panic, he continued. The inmates of the floors below—he lived on the top floor—all made a rush for witness's flat to escape by the roof. Several succeeded in doing so, whilst others met their death ascending the ladder. In a very few minutes the trap-door was blocked by these fleeing persons. Witness went on to explain that he worked his way to the top of the ladder and getting on the roof was the means of pulling six persons up through the trap-door and on to the roof. Then the flames were then burning fiercely. Soon the ladder took fire, and it was in danger of the last person that he had his fingers burnt. There were eleven persons living on this floor and only five are alive now, six being killed in the fire.

QUESTION OF FIRE ESCAPES.

A question of fire escapes in Chinese buildings was then brought up. The witness said that the ladder—or what was left of it—was his property. He had occupied two houses in this Colony and in each case he had to buy his own ladder, no ladder being supplied by the landlord which could be used in cases of fire to escape by the roof. The Coroner could not get from the witness whether this was the general custom among the Chinese, so another person was summoned to speak on the subject. He said that in his opinion he did not think ladders were supplied by the landlord. If there was no ladder then he believed it remained for the tenant to get one at his own expense or go without any.

That concluded the evidence in the inquiry, after which Jurymen Clarke read out part of a section of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance in reference to fire escapes in Chinese tenements. He said that according to the Ordinance he would think that every house supplied with fire escapes; he would suggest that an Ordinance be passed making it compulsory for every building to have a stairway leading to the roof and made of hardwood which would take a longer time to burn. The wood—China fir—he stated, that it used by Chinese builders for tenements is staying power as soon as it gets heated.

THE JURY'S FINDING.

His Worship informed the jury that any suggestions they had to make would be conveyed to his Excellency the Governor. The jury then retired to consider their verdict. After several minutes they returned to Court and his Worship read out their finding as follows—

THE RIVER.

We find that Fuk Kwan and seven others, male and female, died through misadventure, being burnt to death in a fire at No. 3, Tung Loi Lane, whilst endeavouring to escape by the roof. We would recommend that section 149 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance of 1903, with regard to fire escapes, be strictly enforced.

(Signed), CHARLES ROGERS,  
THOS. W. CLARKE,  
HUSAIN P. MADAR.

His Worship, after thanking the jury for the attention they had paid to the inquiry, dismissed them.

## S.S. "HONGKONG" STRANDED.

## PASSENGERS SAFE.

A private telegram was received in the Colony yesterday that the French steamer *Hongkong*, Capt. Corail, had stranded, on her recent voyage from Hongkong to Hainan. When a representative of the *Hongkong Telegraph* called at the office of the agents of the steamer this morning to verify the report, Messrs. A. R. Marty & Co. courteously supplied us with all the information they were then in possession concerning the mishap. Only meagre details are so far available. The *Hongkong* left Hongkong on the 19th inst. bound for Hainan. She carried seven European passengers, and a general cargo. The steamer stranded at a point between Hainan Head and Mofu. Later without any assistance, Captain Anderson succeeded in refloating the steamer; but as she was making some water he decided to beach her. He did so, and the *Hongkong* now lies safely on a sandy beach in a perfectly sheltered position awaiting assistance from Hongkong. The passengers and crew are all safe.

At the time of our representative's visit this morning, Messrs. Marty were completing arrangements for the despatch of saving gear, etc. to the *Hongkong*, and it was expected that all necessary assistance would be got ready to be despatched to the rescue of the stranded vessel by to-morrow morning.

## WAS IT ATTEMPTED SUICIDE?

## A MYSTERIOUS CHINESE WOMAN.

Sergeant O'Sullivan, of Huihung Police Station, arraigned a young and rather good-looking Chinese woman before Mr. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court, this morning, to answer a charge of attempted suicide. The excuse the woman gave for attempting to take her own life was that she was so lonely. Her husband, she said, had two sisters. They did all the house-work and would not allow her to do any. That was the cause, she alleged, of her attempting suicide. Her lips, hands and clothing were smeared with opium when she was taken to the station, and the police are of opinion that by doing so the woman had something in view. The woman lived with her family at No. 41, Kowloon Road, and as far as could be learnt there have been some domestic troubles for some time. "This morning, the young woman, Leung Lai, said she had drunk opium and was promptly taken to the Huihung Police Station and thence to the hospital. The woman, it was alleged, did not drink the poison—she only poured it over herself—by doing so she thought it would bring her husband to terms. The Court bound her over to keep the peace for a year.

WONG-NEI-CHONG RESIDENTS  
STARTLED.

## A FIRE ON THE HILLSIDE.

A correspondent writes—While the residents of Wong-Nei-chong Road were quietly enjoying their afternoon tea, and discussing the topics of the morning, they were greatly startled by a strange noise which was being made in the street. It began with yells and screams, followed by the scuffling of foot-steps, and the blowing of a police whistle, which it was feared was never going to stop. The noise threw the whole neighbourhood into consternation. Men, women and children—some in their hurry forgot to leave their aprons behind—rushed into the street to ascertain the cause of the disturbance. Up a tree a *lukung* was seen blowing his whistle—perhaps it was alleged, he thought that some of the police, who were stationed in the Colony would hear him. Down the hillside a coolie rushed and broke the news that the hill was on fire. A glance in that direction showed the cause of the disturbance. Half an acre of grass and shrub was burning brightly. Immediately a fire-fighting force was organized, consisting of the leading residents of that locality, and steps were taken to extinguish the blaze. One gentleman was seen hurrying to the scene with a glass of water, another with a syringe; a lady, who appeared to be directing the operations from the street, suggested to a third to get a bucket of water from the street. The fire-fighting force was then burning fiercely. Soon the flames were then burning fiercely. Sing up the last person that he had his fingers burnt. There were eleven persons living on this floor and only five are alive now, six being killed in the fire.

IRONMONGER KNOWS NOT  
IRON.

## BUT WILL NOW LEARN.

There was considerable excitement in Wellington Street in the wee hours of this morning—at 2.30 o'clock to be precise. Windows were banged open by irate, disturbed sleepers and everybody was shouting at once to know what was the matter. A few irrepressible idiots cried "fire"—when there was no fire—but luckily for the comfort of the Fire Brigade, they were unheeded. The cause of the disturbance was the noise of a hammer and the nerve-racking screams proceeding from the shop of an ironmonger. The shop was closed at the time, but suddenly a man burst through the door, and made as if to do the sprint of his life. But he reckoned without his host, or at any rate without our local Police, for before his sprint had merged from a preliminary canter to a full gallop the man found himself in the arms of a native minion of the Law, who very rightly viewed with suspicion the movements of a man who, at that hour of the morning, was rushing for dear life down the street, and away from a house, whence the unearthly screams, which had attracted the policeman to the spot, were being emitted. An investigation naturally followed, when it was found that several *fohis* of the shop slept on the premises, among them being the accused. Early this morning, for purposes of his own, one of them got up to go out, and in doing so trod on the corns of his neighbour, the accused, who seizing the first thing that came to hand, which unfortunately for both of them, happened to be a crowbar, brought it down full weight upon the head of the "trader on corns," inflicting a gaping wound some four inches long. Inspector Smith, who was soon on the scene, sent the wounded man to hospital, and escorted his assailant to the lock up. When questioned about the matter at the Station the accused calmly said, "I did not know that it was an iron bar—I took hold of the first thing my hand felt to hit him with." As his victim is detained in hospital, the accused is detained in Victoria Gaol, pending the result of his fellow *fohis*, when he will be placed before one of the Honours to account satisfactorily, if possible, for his extraordinary action with the crowbar.

FIRE ON BOARD THE  
"SHAWMUT".

## SMART WORK BY THE CREW.

## CARGO SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.

The Boston Steamship and Towboat Company's steamer *Shawmut*, Captain Roberts, which arrived at Koba from Hongkong late on Thursday afternoon, left early yesterday morning for Yokohama. About 8.20 a.m., when the steamer was in the Kii Channel, it was discovered that No. 2 hold was on fire, reports the *Japan Chronicle* of Feb. 17.

An alarm was immediately raised, and all hands turned out to extinguish the outbreak. So successful were the efforts of the crew that the fire was put out before any serious damage was done to the cargo in the hold. It is stated by the Koba Water Police that the No. 2 hold was loaded with hemp, which had been taken on board at Manila and Shanghai for Yokohama. The *Shawmut* was put about, and returned to Koba about ten o'clock yesterday morning. A representative of the *Chronicle* went on board the *Shawmut* yesterday afternoon, and obtained some particulars of the fire from Captain Roberts. The captain stated that the *Shawmut* left Koba about six o'clock yesterday morning, and in addition to the cargo of hemp and matting, there were 32 Japanese emigrants on board, bound for the United States. When the ship was about to pass through the Kii Channel it was discovered that No. 2 hold was on fire. The crew at once stood by the pumps, and within twenty minutes the fire was completely got under. The damage done to the cargo by fire was not serious, stated Captain Roberts, but considerable damage was done by water. This damaged cargo being discharged yesterday afternoon, after which the *Shawmut* was to resume her voyage to Yokohama.

## ANOTHER SHIP FIRE.

## NARROW ESCAPE OF THE "KAWACHI-MARU."

## FOUR LIGHTERS AILAZZ IN KOBE HARBOUR.

The following report is taken from the *Japan Chronicle* of Feb. 19.—On Sunday afternoon at 3.15 a fire occurred in the harbour, which it did not seem for prompt action by the Chief Officer of the *Kawachi-maru*, might have resulted disastrously for that vessel. The *Kawachi-maru* arrived in Kobe on Saturday from London, via ports, with a full cargo, amongst which was a large quantity of oil, paint and chemicals. On Sunday afternoon discharging was actively proceeding and several lighters were grouped together receiving cargo from the hold aft. Two lighters were full and a third was nearly ready to leave the ship's side, when, just as some barrels of chlorate of soda had been released from the sling into the lighter, a rush of flame burst from the barrels. In less than a minute the lighter, which was laden with oil, pitch, paint and chlorate of soda, was ablaze, and from stem to stern. The coolies on board the neighbouring lighters were panic-stricken, and several jumped into the sea. One, who could not swim, would have fared very badly had it not been for a lifebuoy which was thrown to him by the First Engineer of the *Kawachi-maru*. The wind, which was blowing strongly off-shore, fanned the flames on to the *Kawachi-maru* and Mr. McClelland, the Chief Officer, who had been vainly endeavouring to persuade a tug to tow the burning lighter away from the steamer's side, immediately gave a fire alarm. In a remarkably short space of time four lines of hoses were placed in position by the Japanese crew and steady streams of water were directed down the ship's side; the heat from the burning lighter being so great as to scorch the paint on the walls of the hold. The cargo in this hold was chiefly oil and paint and the men worked hard to prevent these igniting. By this time many launches had arrived, but could not approach the lighter owing to the intense heat and the many explosions of the oil barrels; and they had to watch three other lighters catch fire without being able to get them clear. These lighters were cut adrift from the *Kawachi-maru* by the Chief Officer's order, and by enabling the launches to tow them away, and they now drifted astern, on the way setting fire to the *Kawachi-maru's* boats and rigging. Under the orders of the Chief Officer two lines of hoses were taken aft, where they threw steady streams of water on the boats and woodwork which were now well alight. Smoke was observed coming from the lavatories aft, and it was found necessary to send a line of hose along owing to the woodwork having caught fire. At about 3.45 the four burning lighters had drifted astern of the *Kawachi-maru* and the police launches were soon pouring streams of water into them, so that the flames were extinguished. The fourth, which had nearly burnt itself out, was connected with a launch and was towed towards Mirume, twice getting adrift, however, owing to the tow rope burning, and distributed to the neighbouring steamers volumes of suffocating smoke which emanated from its burning cargo of oil and paint.

The fire on the *Kawachi-maru* was soon extinguished, and great credit is due to the Chief Officer and men, not only for the expedition with which the hose was got ready, but for the able manner in which they coped with the fire, despite the difficulties under which they had to labour. The Chief Officer is also deserving of praise for the foresight and promptitude displayed. Besides the damage to the *Kawachi-maru* four lighters belonging to the Koba Fire Company and their contents were more or less damaged one being entirely destroyed. We understand the damage is covered by insurance, but until an inquiry is instituted no estimate of the loss can be arrived at. At present the immediate cause of the fire is unknown.

FOREIGNER'S ACCIDENTAL  
DEATH.

## FELL DOWN STAIRCASE AT EAST POINT.

F. Rangel, a clerk, once employed in the Naval Yard, died in the Government Civil Hospital on the 25th ult., the result of a fractured skull, which he received in an accident at Wanchai, on the night of the 23rd. According to a statement made by Rangel to the police before his death, it appears that on the night in question, in an inebriated condition, he went to a certain house in the Eastern district and was refused admission. In attempting to descend the staircase he lost his hold and went headlong down the stairway—a distance of about thirty feet. At the bottom he struck his head against the door. The inmates of the house, from a story they told the police, knew nothing of the accident until they were told by the amah, who had just returned from making a purchase, that a foreigner was lying near the doorway and unable to move. The police from No. 2 Police Station were called and, in an ambulance, the unfortunate man, who had already lost consciousness, was removed to the hospital for attendance. He regained consciousness a few minutes before breathing his last and was able to give the police his name, and to supply them with all the information which accounted for his presence in the situation.

MISHAP TO THE  
"DEVANHA".DEPARTURE OF PRINCE FUSHIMI FROM  
KOBÉ.

## QUICK REPAIR WORK.

As a result of the expeditious manner in which the repairs to the damaged P. and O. steamer *Devanha* were carried out by the Kawasaki Dock Company, the steamer was ready to resume her voyage to Europe in good time yesterday morning, says the *Japan Chronicle* of 16th ult.

Soon after ten o'clock His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi left the Otowa in a closed carriage for the American Harbors, followed by the suite. At the Harbors, waiting to receive Prince Fushimi, were Mr. Kajima, Deputy Mayor of Kobe, Chief Justice Tamura, Mr. Yamamoto, Chief Prosecutor, Mr. Saito, superintendent of Customs, the chiefs of the Kobe and Hyogo police, and others. His Imperial Highness arrived at the Harbors at about 10.30, and immediately went on board the Kobe police launch *Honmaru*, which proceeded to the P. and O. steamer. A number of gentlemen went out to the *Devanha* by the launch, amongst whom was Mr. J. B. Rentiers, Acting British Consul at Kobe. The *Devanha* left Kobe a few minutes before noon.

To a representative of the *Osaka Mainichi* who called at the Otowa, where His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi spent Thursday night, Captain Sumida explained to the *Print*, that the *Devanha* had been specially sent from Shanghai by the P. and O. Company to convey His Highness and suite to England. Consequently, the steamer carried only two foreign passengers and an official of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, in addition to His Imperial Highness and suite. At the time of the accident, continued the officer, all on board were in their cabins, he being occupied in reading. Three blasts of a steamer's whistle were suddenly heard, as if something unusual had happened, and he immediately went up on deck. Sounds as of a collision were heard in the direction of the ship's bow, and in an instant a flash of light, as though a small mine had exploded, was seen ahead. The *Devanha* was proceeding at a slow speed, and when a collision was considered imminent the engines were promptly reversed, so that the damage done to the steamer was small. A seaman soon came up to the captain of the steamer, who was on the bridge, and reported that the damage was slight.

He (Captain Sumida) then went below and reported particulars of the accident to Prince Fushimi, who was still awake, after which he returned on deck. At about 10.45 p.m. the *Devanha* lowered eight boats which went to the assistance of the *Shimura-maru*, on which only the mast-head lights and a few lights moving about on deck could be seen. At 10.50 flames were seen issuing from the damaged part of the *Shimura-maru* and it was then known that the vessel had caught fire. At 11 o'clock the fire had spread considerably, and all hands on board were seen endeavouring to extinguish the outbreak. In about an hour the fire was got under, but by that time the position of the Japanese vessel was unknown, and all on board the P. and O. steamer were much concerned as to what had become of her. At the moment of the collision a sailor of the *Shimura-maru* clambered on board the *Devanha*, and from him the identity of the Japanese vessel was ascertained. He stated that the steamer had been chartered by the Government, and was on her way from Tokuyama to Inoshiba to be docked. The second officer of the *Devanha* boarded the *Shimura-maru* immediately after the collision, and inquired as to the damage sustained. The *Devanha* made a little water after the collision, but it was soon pumped out. The damage sustained by the P. and O. steamer was slight, and above the water-line. Though fully able to continue her voyage, having the Imperial Prince on board, it was thought desirable to put back to Kobe for repairs.

DUKE OF CONNAUGHT IN  
SINGAPORE.

## ADDRESS OF THE STRAITS-BORN CHINESE.

The following is the address presented to His Royal Highness by the Straits-born Chinese community—

To His Royal Highness Prince Arthur William Patrick Albert, Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K. G., K. A., K. P., &c., &c.

May it please Your Royal Highness,

We the humble subjects of His Most Gracious Majesty the King Emperor, desire most respectfully to wish Your Royal Highness and also His Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Strathearn, the Duke and Duchess of Albany, and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, a most sincere and cordial welcome to this part of His Majesty's dominions.

As a community of British subjects of Chinese descent whose forefathers came to and settled down in this Colony, and who themselves were born in this Colony, we humbly beseech Your Royal Highness to be graciously pleased to accept this brief expression of our gladness and joy at seeing Your Royal Highnesses, such prominent and distinguished members of the Royal House, in our midst, and likewise of our gratification for the opportunity afforded to us of once again seeing Your Royal Highnesses, no less a personage than the brother of His Majesty the King, our loyal and constant devotion to the British Throne, and of expressing our deep sense of gratitude for the liberties and privileges which we enjoy under the aegis of the British Flag and our firm belief and unflinching hope in the jealousy with which His Majesty the King and His Majesty's Government will ever follow the fortunes of any of His Majesty's Straits-born Chinese subjects in foreign countries and ports.

We are reminded that this is the second occasion on which Your Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Connaught have graced this Colony with your August Presence, and we desire to bear testimony to the fact that the great and steady advance, since the first memorable visit of Your Royal Highnesses to these shores, in the social, commercial and educational affairs of our Colony has been due to the wisdom and soundness of our British policy.

We pray that Your Royal Highness will be pleased to convey our humble expression of loyalty to His Majesty the King Emperor, in conclusion, we most respectfully hope that the brief sojourn in our midst of Your Royal Highnesses and of Her Royal Highness the Princess Patricia of Connaught will be pleasant ones, no doubt Your Royal Highness' visit in connection with your military duties will be beneficial to the Colony.

And we, as in duty bound, will ever pray. (Signed on behalf of the Straits-born Chinese community).

Singapore, February 16, 1907.

THE Chinese Engineering and Mining Co.'s total output of the Company's three mines for the year ending February 2, 1907, amounted to 19,060 tons and the sales during the same period to 14,495 tons.

## COMPANY MEETING.

## SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO., LTD.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held yesterday evening at the office of the Company, 2 Jankin Road, reports the *Shanghai Times* of 21st Feb. There was only a sparse attendance of shareholders, presided over by Mr. E. Jenner Hogg. Others present were Messrs. E. C. Pearce, J. M. Young, C. W. Wrightson, J. M. Jamieson (directors), A. Dallas, N. von Rucker, Crawford D. Kerr, Marcus Wolff, A. McLeod, H. J. H. Tripp, H. R. Kinneer, N. F. Bryant and P. Peebles, their manager.

Mr. Peebles was unanimously appointed secretary to the meeting. The Chairman then said.—The report and accounts which have been in your hands for some time may, I presume, be taken as read and I will propose their adoption. I am glad to be able to present to you such a favourable record for the past year, results which enable us to offer you the ordinary dividend and a substantial bonus as well. We have done good work during the year. Our rentals have increased by about Tels. 41,600, but on the other hand you will notice that the deductions for Fire Insurance, water, repairs, etc., appear heavy and I should explain that this entry has been made to bear some heavy items for what are really permanent improvements which might fairly be charged to capital as they much reduce ordinary repairs in the future, but I feel sure that you will approve of the prudent policy we have adopted of taking them from the year's earnings.

The entry includes also some rather heavy damage caused by the typhoon last summer, which cost us between Tels. 3,000 and Tels. 4,000. Fire Insurance, as well as the charges for lighting and water, naturally increase as our buildings extend. You will notice that this credit for interest account shows smaller figures. It accounts for the reduced total of Working account and is attributable to the fact that we have used more of our funds in new buildings and in the purchase of new properties, which though non-productive for the moment, will be remunerative in the near future. We have invested during the year Tels. 381,500 in new buildings, Tels. 195,900 in vacant land, and Tels. 250,100 on land and buildings together—a total of Tels. 827,500—all of which should do well. On the other hand we have sold three properties giving satisfactory profits which are credited in Profit and Loss account.

The working account shows a decrease in charges owing to there being no passage money paid as was the case during the preceding year. Salaries for the staff are rather more, also legal expenses, due in great measure to work connected with the new issue of capital. As regards Reserve fund it has now reached the very substantial sum of Tels. 869,193.51 and there will further accrue next April some Tels. 650,000 from the premiums on the new capital thus completed and will thus be brought up to about Tels. 1,519,000. We have therefore considered it time to cease making to this account the interest on undeveloped estates, and to leave the benefit to present shareholders.

The estates are charged as heretofore each with its proportion of course, and making a total for the year of Tels. 13,299.65, but which as I have said is not carried to the Reserve Fund as formerly.

The Special Reserve Fund remains at Tels. 170,000 and is intended for the equalization of dividends should such an emergency occur.

Referring to the Balance Sheet, the report is so fully explanatory that I need only say that we have every reason to be very well satisfied with the changes in the properties whether due to sales, purchases or buildings, and the actual value of the properties are, as you are doubtless aware, enormously greater than what they stand at in this account.

Our Mortgages are all excellently covered and stand at Tels. 1,821,801.42, being about Tels. 153,700 more than last year. The debentures appearing among the assets are a few of our own 5 per cent issue, which we took at a low price, and they will, as required, be converted into cash. Capital account is increased by receipts in respect of the new issue last October, and Premium account shows the premium on the new capital issued at that time and will be transferred (subject to your approval, at the next annual meeting) when the payment of the whole new capital is completed. You will see from the report that in accordance with the decision at our Extraordinary Meeting last year we put out the new issue of 16,000 shares, payable Tels. 40 last October and Tels. 35 next April. In October all were applied for but 705 shares which can be satisfactorily disposed of as convenient. As to the current year (1907) without being sanguine I may say that there is every prospect of our increasing prosperity and that a year hence we shall present to you no less favourable results than those which I have been pleasure to lay before you today.

There being no questions asked the Chairman proposed and Mr. J. M. Young seconded that the report and accounts as presented be accepted and passed. Carried unanimously.

## AMERICA AND JAPAN.

## THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT CRITICIZED.

A Tokyo special of Feb. 19 to the *N. G. D. News* says—

The House of Representatives at Washington has passed President Roosevelt's amendment of the Immigration Bill by a large majority.

The authorities at Tokyo declare that they have consented to the principle of restriction being placed on the immigration of Japanese into America, but they have not yet consented to the Amendment as passed by the United States Congress. The actual application of this Amendment depends on diplomatic negotiations which have not yet been opened.

The Japanese in Hawaii are telegraphing strong protests to Washington and Tokyo. Some of the Tokyo papers point out that the Bill passed by Congress is more illegal than the Segregation Act of California.

THE annual report of the Shanghai Gas Company for 1906 reveals a net profit for the year of just over Tels. 200,000 and the payment in addition to the 7 per cent interim dividend of a final dividend on old shares of 7 per cent, dividend on new shares of Tels. 1.11, and on new shares of Tels. 0.25 per share. The private consumption increased during the year by 51,806,675 cubic feet; there was a small increase in the public consumption, and residuals found a favourable market.

## PRINCE FUSHIMI'S MISSION.

The interchange of missions between the Courts of St. James and Tokio, as it were, the popular *Imperialism* on the Treaty of Alliance ratified by the respective Governments of the two countries. Five years ago, when the Anglo-Japanese Agreement for Alliance was drawn up, the action of the British Government constituted a significant departure from a policy of eschewing alliances, which seemed likely to become one of Great Britain's traditions. It is true that such a policy applied mainly, if not exclusively, to the European continent; but at that time the possibility of an alliance outside Europe, with the sole exception of America, which in virtue of Anglo-Saxon kinship is in a category of its own in regard to our "foreign" relations would hardly have occurred to the popular imagination. Consequently it was left to the far-sightedness of our statesmen to discover where a policy of nominal alliance might be departed from with advantage to the nation and to lead the country with them in their interpretation of the sign of the future. The tentative nature of their action may be gathered from the fact that an Agreement for Alliance was allowed to precede by three years the more comprehensive Treaty of Alliance signed on August 12, 1905. Current events in the Far East provide the best possible confirmation of the wisdom of the British Government's policy and ensured for the Alliance a full measure of popular support in Great Britain. With a happy knack of giving expression to the nation's feeling in a manner that at once commends itself to the country, King Edward set the seal of popular approval on the Treaty by charging Prince Arthur of Connaught with the personal investiture of the Emperor of Japan with the Order of the Garter. That mission called for a return visit to the Court of St. James which has been entrusted to His Imperial Highness Prince Fushimi, a cousin of the Emperor and one of Japan's distinguished generals.

The chain of events recently forged in the Far East, of which the mission of Prince Fushimi is but one link, is significant of more than a political alliance between two countries. With the rapid rise of Japan, we have seen challenged for the first time the comfortable assumption, which for centuries has held its own ground, that the world belonged to the white races of mankind. We have arrogated to ourselves the enjoyment of the only civilization worthy of the name, and urged forward by a power that is not of ourselves we have conceived it to be our duty to extend that civilization throughout the world. The ultimate effect of such a crusade we have hardly started to realize; but confident, as it were, in our own destiny, we have continued to push forward the white man's civilization. Only now are we able to appreciate the far-reaching possibilities of such a policy, if once the non-white races take us at our word. The peculiar circumstances in which their lives are ordered will give them an overwhelming advantage in all joint competition; they can produce cheaply, and cheapness, if not the *summum bonum* of industry, carries with it an almost irresistible attraction. Whether by sea or in war the Japanese have proved themselves capable of mastering all the white man's arts. It is true that not all non-white races are Japanese; but as we have proved the capabilities of the one race is such an incredibly short time, it would be dangerous to speculate on the absence of latent probabilities in others. Forty years ago no one could have predicted that Japan would occupy the position she holds to-day. In another forty years those who are convinced today that the Japanese will exhaust the potentialities of the non-white races may be equally wide of the mark.

It is inevitable that the tendency which has already manifested itself should continue to develop, and it would be well for the white races at this stage to take a careful survey of the situation and the manner in which they propose to order their actions. Already the Japanese constitute a new industrial force, in a less degree the natives of India are entering into direct competition with the white races, and this not only in their own country, but also in other lands. In spite of race prejudice the non-white races find their way into the white man's territory; Japanese are the agricultural labourers of California, Indians are working some of the mines of the Transvaal and are wanted for the Panama Canal. In each case the white man refuses to allow them to do the work. Against these powerful forces the policy of rigid exclusion seems too crude to be successful in the long run. It is difficult, however to foresee the end. For the moment the best policy must be to face the altered circumstances and to let diamond cut diamond. No virile race will altogether reject competition; but it has the right to expect complete straightforwardness from those who ask to meet it on equal terms.—*N. C. D. News.*

## YUAN SHIH-KAI.

A few weeks ago we dwelt at considerable length on the critical position in which the advanced party in China was placed by the repeated snubs to which it was being subjected by the vacillating powers that be in this Empire. As things then were there was every likelihood that Yuan Shih-Kai and his disciples were to remain in eclipse for some considerable time to come, and our native contemporaries were talking of their forthcoming resignation of the various posts which they held. Not long after that we heard of the serious illness of a highly placed official who had incurred the imperial displeasure and the *post quod ergo propter* argument was freely applied to the case and there was no wanting those who believed that the illness in question was one of those "political" actions to which resort is commonly had to "save face" in view of a forthcoming necessary obedience to the command "Right about face." How far such was the case we should not like to say, but it is certainly a very remarkable coincidence that restoration to health has been simultaneous with the renewed smile of Imperial favour which has been bestowed on Yuan Shih-Kai. As we pointed out in the article to which reference has been made above, it would have been playing into the hands of the reactionaries for either Yuan Shih-Kai or any of his enlightened co-workers to resign, and we are pleased to find that they have taken any such unwisdom step. Between the Eastern and the Western minds there is a great gulf fixed, but it is a mere forlorn streamlet in comparison with the gulf that separates the average Western intelligence from that pure enigma the Imperial Will. Hence it is impossible to divine the motives which prompt these kaleidoscopic changes. But if there is one thing more than another which our native contemporaries should particularly bear in mind, it is the fact that in any way influence that will, it is the fact that the political and international stage, and that conservative policy, even if consistently conservative, is far preferable on every score, except that of picturesque, to the present invertebrate stolidity of the Imperial Will. Account—*Shanghai Mercury.*



## HONGKONG HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

## DISPLAY AT THE GARDENS.

Patrons:—His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., His Excellency Major-General Broadwood, C.B., His Honour Sir Francis Taylor Piggott, Kt., His Honour Sir Paul Chater, Kt., C.M.G.

Judges:—Messrs. D. W. Craddock, W. J. Tuckey.

Committee:—Mr. J. Barton, Mrs. Brewin, Mr. Choa Leep Chee, Mr. D. W. Craddock, Mr. S. T. Dunn, Mr. L. Gibbs, Mr. A. E. Griffin, Mr. F. Howell, Mrs. Jordan, Mr. E. Osborne, Mrs. Turner.

Mr. L. Gibbs, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Another success has been scored by the exhibitors at the Hongkong Horticultural Society's show which opened at the Botanical Gardens on the 26th ult. It was hardly to be expected that so much could have been done in a couple of years and there is ample evidence that the idea suggested by His Excellency the Governor should have borne fruit so rapidly. While there was an excellent show of blooms by residents at the Peak, the Championship was won by a gentleman living on the lower level—Mr. Fred. Howell. There is still much room for improvement in the display by those who indulge in the recreation of kitchen gardening and it is to be regretted that the native gardeners of the New Territory have failed so far to come up to expectations. It is noteworthy that the first prizes for pot plants were gained by one residing in the New Territory—Sergeant Kerr, of Pink Shan Police Station—who only goes to prove that if the native cultivators took an interest in the exhibition they would carry away a goodly proportion of the prizes. On the whole, however, the show which opened to-day is well worth a visit and is bound to prove a greater success than last year's show.

Appended is the prize list:—

## SCHEDULE.

## Group A.

## PLANTS IN POTS.—PEAK GARDENS ONLY.

Class 1.—6 pots of Annuals or plants raised from seed the same season. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. G. C. Moxon.

Class 2.—3 pots of Flowering plants. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. Turner, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 3.—3 pots of Foliage plants. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. J. Hughes, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 4.—2 pots of Dahlias. 1st prize \$3 Mr. E. M. Hazelard, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 5.—2 pots of Violets. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. J. Hughes.

Class 6.—2 pots of Mignonette. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Tompkins, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Saunders.

Class 7.—2 pots of Tulips. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. Turner, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. W. Slade.

Class 8.—2 pots of Freesia. 1st prize \$3 Mr. A. G. Wise, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 9.—2 pots of Narcissus Tazetta, tall. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. E. M. Hazelard.

Class 10.—2 pots of Begonia. 1st prize \$3 Mr. E. M. Hazelard.

Class 11.—2 pots of Heliotrope. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Turner.

Class 12.—4 pots of Ferns, distinct variety. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 13.—1 pot of Best specimen Fern. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 14.—1 pot of Best specimen Palm. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung. Special prize (\$5) Mr. E. M. Hazelard.

## Group B.

## CUT FLOWERS.—PEAK GARDENS ONLY.

Class 1.—4 bunches of cut flowers, distinct variety. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Layton, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. E. J. Hughes.

Class 2.—4 bunches of Nasturtium, distinct colours. 1st prize \$3 Peak Club, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Turner.

Class 3.—12 Pansies. 1st prize \$3 Mr. B. Layton.

## Group C.

## VEGETABLES.—PEAK GARDENS ONLY.

Class 1.—Best collection of vegetables, not less than 6 varieties. 1st prize \$6 Mrs. Saunders, and 2nd prize \$4 Mrs. E. J. Hughes.

Class 2.—2 Heads of Celery. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. E. M. Hazelard, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 3.—2 Cauliflowers. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. E. J. Hughes, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. E. M. Hazelard.

Class 4.—2 Cabbages. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. Saunders, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. G. C. Moxon.

Class 5.—2 Lettuce. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Saunders.

Class 6.—6 Beets. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. A. G. Wise.

Class 7.—Carrots. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. Saunders, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. E. M. Tompkins.

Class 8.—6 Turnips. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. J. Hughes, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 9.—6 Onions. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 10.—12 Tomatoes. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. E. M. Hazelard.

Class 11.—25 Radishes. 1st prize \$3 Mr. E. M. Hazelard, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 12.—25 pods of Peas. 1st prize \$3 Mr. A. G. Wise, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. E. M. Tompkins.

Class 13.—25 pods of Runner Beans. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. M. W. Slade, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. E. M. Hazelard.

Class 14.—1 bunch of Parsley. 1st prize \$2 Mrs. Saunders, and 2nd prize \$1 Mrs. W. Slade.

## Group D.

## CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE YEAR.—OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY.

Prize Presented by Mr. J. Barton. Won by Mr. F. Howell (71 marks), Mr. Ho Tung (44 marks), East Point Gardens (36 marks).

## Group E.

## PLANTS IN POTS.—OPEN TO ALL.

Class 1.—6 pots of Annuals or plants raised from seed the same season. Prizes presented by Mr. Fung Wa Chuan. 1st prize \$6 Mr. Dorabjee, and 2nd prize \$4 Mr. F. Howell.

Class 2.—3 pots of Flowering plants. 1st prize \$4 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$5, Mr. Choa Leep Chee.

Class 3.—3 pots of Foliage plants. 1st prize \$4, Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$3 Mr. Dorabjee.

Class 4.—3 pots of Palms. Prizes presented by Mr. Choa Leep Chee. 1st prize \$3 Miss Wallace, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Class 5.—4 pots of Roses. Prizes presented by Mr. Choa Leep Chee. 1st prize \$3 Sir Paul Chater, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Brewin.

Class 6.—4 pots of Freesia. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Brewin.

Class 7.—4 pots of Geraniums. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Howell.

Class 8.—4 pots of Dahlias. Prizes presented by Mr. Ho Kom Tong. 1st prize \$3 Sam Fong Garden, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Dorabjee.

Class 9.—4 pots of Carnations and/or Pinks. Prizes presented by Mr. Ho Kom Tong. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Class 10.—4 pots of Dianthus, other varieties, excluding Carnations and Pinks. Prizes presented by Mr. Ho Kom Tong. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Class 11.—4 pots of Pansies. Prizes presented by Mr. Ho Kom Tong. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Class 12.—4 pots of Violets. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Sir Paul Chater.

## Class 13.—4 pots of Mignonette. 1st prize \$3, Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$1 Sir Paul Chater.

## Class 14.—4 pots of Nasturtium (all variety). 1st prize \$3 Civil Service Cricket Club, and 2nd prize \$2 East Point Gardens.

## Class 15.—4 pots of Nasturtium (dwarf variety). 1st prize \$3 Civil Service Cricket Club, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

## Class 16.—2 pots of acacias. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Jordan.

## Class 17.—2 pots of Azaleas. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

## Class 18.—2 pots of Ferns, excluding Maiden Hair Ferns. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Miss Rogers.

## Class 19.—4 pots of Maiden Hair Ferns. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung.

## Class 20.—4 pots of Chrysanthemum. Prizes presented by Mr. Choa Leep Chee. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

## Class 21.—4 pots of Peony. Prizes presented by Mr. Choa Leep Chee. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

## Class 22.—4 pots of Aster. Prizes presented by Mr. Choa Leep Chee. 1st prize \$3 Mr. F. Howell.

## Class 23.—4 pots of Chinese Orchids. Prizes presented by Mr. Ho Tung. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Tung, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

## Group F.

## CUT FLOWERS.—OPEN TO ALL EXCEPT CHINESE MARKET GARDENERS.

Class 1.—4 Specimen blooms (any variety). Prizes presented by Mr. D. Dorabjee. 1st prize \$3 Sir Paul Chater, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 2.—6 Bunches of Cut Flowers (distinct). Prizes presented by Mr. D. Dorabjee. 1st prize \$3 Ladies Recreation Club, and 2nd prize \$3 Mr. F. Howell.

Class 3.—6 Roses. Prizes presented by Mr. D. Dorabjee. 1st prize \$3 Sir Paul Chater, and 2nd prize \$3 Mr. Dorabjee.

Class 4.—12 Carnations, and/or Picotees. Prizes presented by Mr. D. Dorabjee. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. Jordan.

Class 5.—12 Pansies. Prizes presented by Mr. D. Dorabjee. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. M. J. D. Stephens, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. F. Howell.

Class 6.—4 Button hole bouquets. 2 Ladies and 2 Gentlemen in glasses or vases. Prizes presented by Mr. S. T. Dunn. 1st prize \$3 Mr. D. Stephens, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Loureiro.

## Group G.

## VEGETABLES.—OPEN TO ALL EXCEPT CHINESE MARKET GARDENERS.

Class 1.—Collection of vegetables (not less than 6 varieties). 1st prize \$5 Mr. Dorabjee, and 2nd prize \$4 Mr. P. W. Goldring.

Class 2.—2 Heads of Celery. 1st prize \$3 East Point Gardens, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. H. W. Looker.

Class 3.—2 Cauliflowers. 1st prize \$2, Mrs. A. Rodger, and 2nd prize \$1 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 4.—2 Cabbages. 1st prize \$3 Sir Paul Chater, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. Brewin.

Class 5.—2 Lettuce. 1st prize \$3 Mr. H. W. Looker, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Class 6.—2 Vegetable Marrows. 1st prize \$3 Mrs. E. J. Hughes.

Class 7.—6 Beets. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. H. W. Looker.

Class 8.—6 Carrots. 1st prize \$3 Mr. H. W. Looker, and 2nd prize \$2 Mrs. A. Rodger.

Class 9.—6 Turnips. 1st prize \$3 Mr. H. W. Looker, and 2nd prize \$2 East Point Gardens.

Class 10.—12 Tomatoes. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Tung.

Class 11.—12 Potatoes. 1st prize \$3 Sgt. W. J. Kerr, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

Class 12.—25 Radishes. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$3 East Point Gardens.

Class 13.—25 Brussels Sprouts. 1st prize \$3 East Point Gardens, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. H. W. Looker.

Class 14.—25 pods of Peas. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong, and 2nd prize \$2 East Point Garden.

Class 15.—25 French Beans. 1st prize \$3 Mr. P. W. Goldring, and 2nd prize \$2 Mr. H. W. Looker.

## Group I.

## MEMBERS ONLY.

Best group of Flowering and Foliage plants, not exceeding 40 pots, space limited to 12 feet by 10 feet. Prize presented by Sir Paul Chater. 1st prize \$3 Mr. Ho Kom Tong.

## Group J.

## GENERAL EXHIBITS.—OPEN TO ALL.

Class 1.—Best group of Flowering and Foliage plants, not exceeding 40 pots, space limited to 12 feet by 10 feet. Prize presented by H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan, T-sang Lam U.

Class 2.—Best bouquet of Wild Flowers for children not exceeding 15 years of age. Prize presented by Mrs. L. Gibbs. Miss Joan Rodger.

Class 3.—Best Flowering or Foliage plants in pots exhibited by N.C.O.'s or men of the Hong Kong Garrison. Prize presented by H.E. Major-General Broadwood. Sgt. Allen.

Class 4.—Best arrangement of Cut Flowers and Foliage, according to the rules of Japanese Art. Prize presented by H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan. Consul and Mrs. Tanaka.

Class 5.—Best kept Private Garden at the Peak. Prize presented by Sir Paul Chater. Mr. Tompkins.

Class 6.—Best kept Private Garden at Kowloon. Prize presented by H.E. Sir Matthew Nathan. Mr. Looker.

Class 7.—Best kept Private Garden at Hong Kong, exclusive of the Peak. Prize presented by Sir Paul Chater. Mr. Ho Tung.

## THE SPECULATING CRAZE.

## TOKYO JOURNAL'S WARNING TO RUSTICS.

The Tokyo *Maitshiki*, in a strongly worded article, headed "Disorder in Economic Circles," addresses a warning to the people in the rural districts, many of whom have of late been victims of unscrupulous speculators. The disorder prevailing in the economic circles of the country is becoming worse and worse every day, writes our Tokyo contemporary, and Tokyo has become a pandemonium of speculators. Cries for new companies are loud and general, shares are flying in the air, and men are mad. Men are nothing unless they deal in shares. Everybody talks of shares, nothing but shares. Soldiers buy shares by pawning their orders and M.P.'s go to change, absconding themselves from the House. Suzuki has made so many millions, and Fukuzawa has gained so much. The report is spread far and wide, and magnified as it is circulated. The minds of the country folk are moved and disturbed, and they imagine that fortune can be made by gambling in shares. With money earned by the sweat of their brow or obtained by disposing of estates handed down to them from their forefathers, the people from the rural districts congregate in Tokyo, where they are at the mercy of the professional speculators.

According to investigations made by the Metropolitan Police the number of such people assembling in Tokyo is said to be not less than one thousand every day.

Notwithstanding the optimistic view held by Dr. Sakatani it is indisputable, the *Maitshiki* continues, that the country's economics are in a deranged condition; members of the House of Representatives are hoodwinking their constituents for their selfish purposes. Despite the favourable reports circulated by journalists who have been bribed, there is no doubt that many of the new companies are fraudulent.

It is really deplorable that many of the country folk, not knowing this, are running after the speculators who are their worst enemies.

## SALE OF RACE PONIES.

27th February.

This afternoon, outside the City Hall, Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers, put up for sale by public roup forty-three lots of race and polo ponies.

Following is the result of the sale:—

1 China pony, sold for \$80.

2 Disposer, bought by Mr. J. J. Leiria, \$90.

3 Diaster, Mr. Schovell, \$40.

4 Zulu Chief, sold for \$45.

5 Manchurian Chief, \$150.

6 Cubic, grey China griffin, 13.1, \$40.

7 Crisis, bay China pony, 13.0. Winner of races in Chefoo, 3rd in Ladies' Purse this meeting, Mr. W. J. Clarke \$180.

8 Cupid, bay griffin, 12.0, \$55.

9 No Savvy, bay. Winner of Woong-neh-ching Stakes and 2nd in Navy Cup, \$200.

10 Whitehaven, \$70.

11 Can Pass, grey, \$125.

12 White Nile, grey, 13.0, \$130.

13 Dublin, grey. Winner of Lucky Cup, \$100.

14 Iron grey China pony, \$95.

15 Inverurie's Hope, grey, 3rd in Valley Stakes, \$55.

16 The Skean Dhu, black, 3rd in Garrison Cup and in Jockey Cup, \$55.

17 The Emerald, \$8.

18 Brown griffin, \$10.

19 Brown griffin, \$10.

20 Beaufort, bay, \$70.

21 Blisdale, cream, \$150.

22 Craven, \$65.

23 Eager, \$55.

24 Ben Wyvis 11, winner of Nil Desperandum Stakes, \$125.

25 Assual, Winner of "Homocoea" Cup, \$150.

26 Highland Grille, grey (late Ardian). Winner of the Gold Challenge Cup at Shanghai, \$57.

27 Highland Rover, grey, \$155.

28 Highland Heather, grey, 2nd in Valley Stakes, dead heat for 2nd place in Hongkong Stakes, and 2nd in "Homocoea" Cup, \$245.

29 Highland Bonnet, 3rd in Racing Stakes, 3rd in Jockey Cup, 3rd in Nil Desperandum Stakes, and 2nd in The Lucky Cup, \$100.

30 Wicked, bay, \$80.

31 Brython, chestnut, \$65.

32 The Jobber, \$130.

33 Bay pony, \$75.

34 Zepher, bay, \$105.

35 Aladdin, bay, \$110.

36 Nathan, grey, 13.0. Winner of the Jockey Cup, \$135.

37 Grasshopper, grey, \$110.

38 Off Chance, chestnut, \$107.

39 Chestnut China pony, 13.1, \$105.

40 Roscommon, 13.0, \$105.

41 Robbie, \$65.

42 China hack, \$25.

43 Bay waler, \$340.

## ALLEGED FRAUDULENT MORTGAGE.

## THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S DECISION.

On the 27th ult., at the Supreme Court—Sir Francis Piggott, Chief Justice, presiding—judgment was given in the case in which a woman named Cheung Shi, alias Li Cheung Shi, sought for a declaration that a mortgage on certain property in Wing Lok Street was null and void.

The facts of the case, according to the statement of claim, were to the effect that on 12th November, 1901, one Li Fuk, who had inherited certain property from his father, Li Tung Pui, died in Canton, leaving property in this Colony, including a leasehold property known and registered as section B of Marine Lot No. 163 (the property in question); and having by his will appointed the plaintiff executrix on April 27th, 1905, probate was granted to the plaintiff. On March 28th some person, to the plaintiff unknown, impersonating Li Fuk, deceased, executed an indenture of mortgage of the said leasehold property for \$10,000, and on March 29th the mortgage was registered at the Land Office. The plaintiff therefore claimed a declaration that the said mortgage was null and void; delivery up of the said indenture to be cancelled; an order that the registration of the mortgage in the Land Office be expunged; and such further or other relief as the Court thought fit.

For the defence it was maintained that Li Fuk was, and so far as the defendant knew, still subject to a mortgage, the owner of certain leasehold property in Hongkong known and registered as section B of Marine Lot 163. The defendant (Ma Fu Sum) further denied that Li Fuk died on November 12th, 1901, or on any other date, or at all. It was not true that the plaintiff was appointed executrix of his will, or that probate of the said will had at any time been granted to plaintiff. Further the defendant said that the man who he *diva fide* believed to be Li Fuk, the owner of the property, executed on March 28th, 1905, an indenture of mortgage of the said property of \$10,000 which was lent and paid over by the defendant on March 29th. This mortgage, which defendant claimed to be valid and subsisting, was duly registered in the Land Office.

Mr. M. W. Slade, who was instructed by Mr. D. V. Stevenson, of Messrs. Leacon, Looker and Deacon, appeared for the plaintiff. The defendant was represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Mr. John Hastings' office.

In delivering judgment the Chief Justice said that the important question of law would be considered later, but he would give judgment on the question of fact. He found that Li Fuk had died, and he thought it advisable to give judgment in the parties of the mortgage, he said, was a fraudulent one. It was made by Li Fuk and he could find nothing to connect Ma Fu Sum, the defendant, with fraud. Judgment in favour of the plaintiff was passed.

## THE TRAFFIC IN JAPANESE WOMEN.

## ALLEGED COMPLICITY OF FOREIGNERS.

It is reported that the examination by the Nagasaki police of Kamakichi Tada, whose arrest has previously been recorded in these columns, on a charge of being concerned in the illegal emigration of Japanese women, has resulted in astounding disclosures being made. It is alleged, according to the *Nagasaki Press*, that the prisoner has been the ringleader of a number of men engaged in the revolting trade in that Prefecture. By their agency over one thousand young women and girls have been decoyed from their homes, bringing to the men concerned the large sum of two hundred thousand yen a small amount, however, when the number of ruined lives is taken into consideration.

It is stated in a Nagasaki message to Japanese papers that Tada has asserted that in order to evade police inquiries the girls were generally concealed at the residences of certain foreigners, who were closely associated with him in the transactions, until they could be put on board ship.

## TROUBLE ON SHIPBOARD.

ENGINEERS AT LOGGERSHEADS.

27th February.

"His attitude was very threatening towards me and I struck him before he could do anything to me." Such was the plea of self-defence made by T. R. Foster, fourth engineer of the steamer *Dakolah*, when he was summoned at the Police Court, this morning, by Charles Nohles, of the same ship for assault. The alleged assault took place on the morning of the 24th instant on board ship. The complainant's story was that at 8.45 o'clock on Sunday morning last he returned to the ship late and went to his cabin, he said, he met the fourth engineer who struck him, doing some damage. He could not tell how many times he was struck, neither did he know for what reason he was struck. He knew, however, that his forehead was damaged, his eye was blackened, and a side tooth was knocked out.

Defendant—Didn't you challenge me to have a fight?

Witness—I did not.

His Worship (to defendant)—



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 28th ulto. Present:—His Excellency the Governor, Lieut. Colonel Sir Matthew Nathan K.C.M.G., Hon. Mr. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Mr. H. J. Gompertz (Attorney General), Hon. Captain F. J. Bodeley (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. Mr. W. Chatham (Director of Public Works), Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar General), Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewitt, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai Mui, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson, Hon. Mr. E. Osborne, and Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher (Clerk of Council).

## AGENDA.

His Excellency Major General R. G. Broadwood, R.E. (Commanding the Troops), Hon. Mr. A. M. Thomson (Colonial Treasurer).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

## FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The Colonial Secretary laid on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 1 to 13, and it was agreed that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

His Excellency the Governor said:—Financial minute No. 1, which is for \$2,515 is necessitated by the outbreak which took place at the Dairy Farm at the commencement of the year. Under section 34 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, the Government was called upon to pay compensation for 21 diseased cows and one healthy one that had to be slaughtered to prevent the spread of the disease. Financial minute No. 2, for \$1,841 is required to resume some land adjoining the police station, land office, and officers' quarters at Tai-po to prevent this land being used for Chinese shops and dwellings which, it is surrounded, would have been unsanitary to the surrounding buildings. Financial minute No. 3, for \$90, is necessitated by the fact that in the years 1904, 1905, and 1906, through an oversight, the amounts voted by the Colony in aid of the Cancer Research Fund were not paid to that Fund. To obviate such a re-occurrence in the future, the Crown Agents have been sent an annual list of the Colony's contributions to various funds, with instructions to pay them without further reference to the Colony. Financial minute No. 4 for \$2,000 is for repairs to the new fairway buoys. These repairs were necessitated by the heavy typhoons at the end of September last. Financial minute No. 5 for \$1,000 is for repairs and the provision of some additional rifles for the use of the Volunteer Reserve Association. The considerable use of the rifles made in the past has necessitated the repair and the opening of the new Peak range which will be used at the same time as the Kowloon range necessitates additional rifles in the future. Financial minute No. 6 consists of two main items one of \$5,000 for works and the other of \$3,600 is a re-occurrence of money not expended last year. The first item consists of \$4,000 on account of typhoon and rainstorm damages. I foreshadowed the necessity for this vote when I last referred to the subject. It was no use taking it last year as the repairs could not then be carried out. The remainder of the \$5,000 is an item of \$12,000 for sanitary property replacement. This is an addition to a reserve of the same money voted last year. The total of \$32,000 votes is on account of some of the works commenced in 1905 not having been completed that year. It compares favourably with the amount of the votes in the last two years. Financial minute No. 7 for \$153,800 is on account of the destruction of the mists in which the Land Office records were kept at Tai-po. This involved the occupation of a private house at Tai-po and the amount included in this vote is for the rent of that house. Financial minute No. 8, for \$3,263, is for increased contribution to the Cancer Research Fund for the years 1906 and 1907-08. The subscription is now £200. Before making this subscription I consulted the Secretary of Council, who considered the Colony would reap advantage from it. Financial minute No. 10 for \$1,050 is for paying some compensation for and taken up for the military rates at Kowloon. There was a vote of \$20,000 for this purpose in 1904. Of that, \$10,973 was spent in that year, and at the end of the year the account was closed. Owing to some dispute as to who was entitled to compensation it has been impossible to pay this further account until the present time. Financial minute No. 11, for a small sum of \$55,000 for the purchase of a small cottage hospital of six beds at Tai-po. It was recommended by the Principal Civil Medical Officer after his inspection of the New Territories. Financial minute No. 12, \$334, is for raising the fire float which was sunk in the typhoon of September 18, and for providing new power and fittings for it. Financial minute No. 13, \$5,000, is mainly a vote of a sum already provided for the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. I have been assured by the chairman of that Commission that very little further expenditure will be involved, and in my turn I have assured that this Commission do not result in a considerable reduction in the annual expenditure of the Sanitary Department. Financial minute No. 13, \$6,209, is on account of the expenditure incurred in connection with the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and in this connection the Council will be interested to learn that I received from His Royal Highness a telegram when he landed at Singapore saying how delighted they were with the reception and that they much regretted they were unable to spend a longer time with us than they did.

The motion was adopted, and the Council sat in private.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the meeting of Council, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

It was unanimously agreed that the following votes be recommended for adoption by the Council.

## THE RINDERPEST OUTBREAK.

A sum of two thousand five hundred and fifteen dollars in aid of the vote, Sanitary Department—Other charges, compensation for infected cattle slaughtered.

## RESUMPTION OF TAXED LOTS.

A sum of one thousand four hundred and eighty-four dollars in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Resumption of taxed lots in the New Territories.

## CANCER RESEARCH FUND.

A sum of \$90 in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Cancer Research Fund.

## HARBOUR NEEDS.

A sum of two thousand dollars in aid of the vote, Harbour Master's Department, Harbour Office—Special expenditure, purchase of three fairway lighted buoys.

## VOLUNTEER EXPENSES.

A sum of one thousand dollars in aid of the vote, Military expenditure, D. Volunteers—Other charges, purchase of 24 barrels and 13 rifles.

## PUBLIC WORKS.

A sum of fifty-three thousand dollars and six pence in aid of the vote, Public Works—Other charges, purchase of 24 barrels and 13 rifles.

A sum of one thousand four hundred and eighty-four dollars in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Resumption of taxed lots in the New Territories.

A sum of \$90 in aid of the vote, Miscellaneous Services, Cancer Research Fund.

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## KOWLOON DOCK AMENITIES.

## PRESENTATIONS TO DEPARTING MEMBERS.

A goodly number of the staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. met last night in the Reading Room to make presentations to Capt. Dodds and Mr. John Kyles on the occasion of their departure for home to-day. The presents consisted of a silver tea set and a pair of silver vases for Capt. Dodds and a silver tea and coffee service, caddy, and pair of vases for Mr. John Kyles.

Mr. Stewart, chairman of committee, on presenting the tea service, &c., to Capt. Dodds on behalf of the staff expressed regret at losing the captain and said that those who had known him knew him as a jolly good fellow, and hoped that when he got to the bosom of his family that he may have many a pleasant recollection of his sojourn in Hongkong.

The Captain briefly replied. Messrs. Logan, Baxter, Davidson, and Rutter also expressed regret at the Captain's departure from the Colony.

Mr. Neave, on presenting Mr. Kyles, through Mr. Stewart, with a silver tea and coffee service, &c., said they had met there to offer these beautiful silver pieces as a memento of the respect they held for Mr. Kyles, who had been a member of the staff for a good many years. They wished him to retain a good memory of his time in Hongkong and a speedy return to his native land. He regretted that Mr. Kyles was not able to accept the presents in person but hoped that Mr. Stewart would convey to him the good wishes of the meeting and their regret at his inability to attend.

Mr. Stewart in accepting the gifts on behalf of Mr. Kyles said in the words of the old proverb that it was better to give than receive, but to receive this present for their old friend Mr. Kyles gave him great pleasure, although he regretted exceedingly Mr. Kyles' inability to be present. On looking back to the long acquaintance with Mr. Kyles with regard to the Reading Room he could say that Mr. Kyles was a most energetic member.

After speeches from a number of those present, a pleasant hour was spent in harmony. Messrs. Taylor, Logan, Purves, Crispin and Henderson contributing.

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## AN INSURANCE SQUABBLE.

## QUESTION OF S.S. "MACAU'S" INSURANCE.

At the Supreme Court, on the 27th ulto., before His Honour Sir Francis Pigott, Chief Justice, O Yee Tsai, a merchant, brought an action against the Fook On Assurance and Godown Company, Limited, of No. 123 Des Voeux Road Central, to recover the sum of \$40,000, being the amount of the insurance of a certain ship, which foundered in the September typhoon, and which, it was alleged, was insured with the defendant company.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master, appeared for the plaintiff, the defendants being represented by the Hon. Mr. J. E. Pollock, K.C., who was instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon, of Mr. John Hastings' office.

The statement of claim set forth that the plaintiff, a merchant in Macao, insured his steamship, the "Macau," with the defendant company for \$40,000 on September 17th, 1906, the vessel being then in the harbour of Hongkong and the policy was to remain in force until the "Macau" arrived at Amoy. In the typhoon of September 18th the vessel was lost. By the terms of the policy the steamer was valued at \$95,000 and it was agreed that \$55,000 of the value should be insured by the owner himself and not with any other person. Plaintiff paid premium amounting to \$1,200 and stamp duty, but on the vessel being lost the defendants repudiated all liability under the policy, and in consequence the plaintiff brought the action for \$40,000.

The defendants did not agree with the allegation put forward by the plaintiff, though they agreed with them in general. The steamer, defendants said, was not valued at \$95,000 or any other sum by the said policy, but was merely stated therein to be estimated to be of the value of \$95,000, such estimate being placed upon the steamer by the plaintiff himself, who falsely represented her to be of that value, but such estimate of value was not assented to or agreed to by the defendant company. The defendants admitted that the plaintiff agreed by the said policy that the value of the vessel was to be stated by the owner, and would not be re-insured with any other person, but the defendants denied that the plaintiff had performed that agreement and said that the value of the steamer at the time of the policy was only \$25,000 or \$35,000.

While denying that they were liable in the full sum of \$40,000, the defendants admitted that they were liable for 40/100ths of the actual real value of the steamer and explained their willingness to pay that amount, which might be determined by the Court, or otherwise.

Mr. Slade addressed the Court at some length and quoted authorities on the question of insurance policies and the wording of such policies, and the case was subsequently adjourned.

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## THE OPEN DOOR IN MANCHURIA.

## QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The *Japan Chronicle* of 16th ulto. says:—The proceedings on Thursday of the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives are of interest, the Estimates for the administration of Kwantung and Khabuluo (the Japanese half of Saghalien) being considered.

In reply to a question of Mr. Sasaki, a member of the Daido Club, in regard to the administration in Kwantung, Mr. Chinda, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated that in South Manchuria the Government was working on the principle of the "open door" and "equal opportunity" in accordance with the spirit of the treaty of peace. Some foreigners, continued the Vice-Minister, were inclined to think that the Japanese Government would not carry out its pledge to maintain the "open door" in South Manchuria, seeing that duties were imposed on goods imported through Newchwang, while Japanese goods were admitted duty-free through Tairen. This opinion was a mistake one; Japanese and foreign goods were alike admitted duty-free through Tairen. In fact, the Japanese Government was hesitating to establish a Customs-House at Tairen, as it was considered that it was not necessary to do so before a Customs-House was established by Russia in North Manchuria. Now that it had been agreed between the Chinese and Russian Governments to establish a Customs-House in North Manchuria, a Customs-House would be established at Tairen, and goods imported through Newchwang, while Japanese goods were admitted duty-free through Tairen. This opinion was a mistake one; Japanese and foreign goods were alike admitted duty-free through Tairen. In fact, the Japanese Government was hesitating to establish a Customs-House at Tairen, as it was considered that it was not necessary to do so before a Customs-House was established by Russia in North Manchuria. Now that it had been agreed between the Chinese and Russian Governments to establish a Customs-House in North Manchuria, a Customs-House would be established at Tairen, and goods imported through Newchwang, while Japanese goods were admitted duty-free through Tairen.

Mr. Yokota, a Progressist, inquired as to the Government policy of the administration of Khabuluo.

Mr. Hara, Home Minister, stated that the new territory would be placed under the jurisdiction of the Home Department from the coming fiscal year, and an official to direct the administration, under the title of the Director of the Khabuluo Government, would be shortly appointed. The territory would be ruled on the same lines as the administration of the motherland. The Khabuluo Government would not be vested with power to make laws, as in Formosa, but would be placed on the same footing as Okinawa (Luchu). Fishery and forestry were the principal industries of the new territory.

Mr. Yokota, referring to the report that the question of Russia's fishing rights in Khabuluo would be submitted to the decision of the Hague Court of Arbitration, or that such Russian rights would be purchased by the Japanese Government, asked whether there was any truth in these reports.

Mr. Chinda, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, replied that the views of the two Governments were in opposition on the question, and that efforts were being made to settle the difficulty diplomatically. The Vice-Minister added that nothing definite had been decided as to whether the question should be submitted to the decision of the Hague Court or the Russian rights purchased.

Mr. Sasaki further asked whether it was true that the Chinese had taken in hand the construction of a railway between Kirin and Changchung.

The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that such reports had appeared in the newspapers, but the Government was not yet in receipt of any authoritative intelligence on the matter.

Mr. Sasaki further inquired if the withdrawal of troops from Manchuria would not diplomatically affect Japan. The Vice-Minister stated that he could not tell what would be the effect of the withdrawal of the troops from a military point of view, but diplomatically it would in no way affect Japan.

No further questions were asked, and the meeting having agreed to refer the Estimates to sub-committee, the proceedings terminated.

Tairen messengers stated that Mr. Kurokawa, Assistant Chief Commissioner of the Newchwang Customs, arrived at Tairen on the 13th inst. to make the necessary preparations for the establishment of the Customs-House, which is expected to be opened on April 1st next.

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## CANTON DAY BY DAY.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 22nd February.

The Canton Railway Bureau has forwarded a despatch to the Canton-Hankow Railway Company asking the Directors to furnish the Bureau with a copy of the register of shareholders who have paid their first call, and one copy of the subscription registers of contributions collected by the different charitable institutions. On receipt of the above despatch the Directors of the Company have sent out circulars convening a meeting to-day at the Company's office, to discuss the matter.

To-day being the birthday of H.M. the Emperor Dowager of China, there will be no issue of the native press of Canton to-morrow, in honour of the occasion.

The newly appointed French District Magistrate, M. de la Roche, is about to proceed to relieve Mr. Chan Wing, newly appointed Magistrate of Nankai, so that the latter is expected to be here to take over charge of the office in about a fortnight.

On the 18th instant some thieves entered the house of a man named Ho in the ward of Po Yuen in the Western Suburbs, and carried away a large quantity of booty consisting of silk clothing, jewellery, and other valuable articles, to the value of about three thousand dollars. The case has been reported to the Police and the authorities, and the watchman of the ward has been severely punished for his neglect of duty. So far no arrest of the offenders has been effected.

The shopkeepers and traders of Fatsan all suspended business to-day, and all shops of every description are closed, and business is entirely at a standstill, as the outcome of some misunderstanding arising in connection with the levy of a special tax to fund that place with a proper organised police force.

It is reported that H.E. the Viceroy's intention to recommend the firm of engineers, Messrs. Howarth, Esling, of Shanghai, to the Canton River Iron Bridge Company for the contract for the building of the first iron bridge across the river at Yau Lan Mun.

H.E. the Viceroy to-day received the Japanese Consul of Canton.

It is reported that H.E. the Viceroy is exceedingly displeased with the present Nankai Magistrate Yu Yu Kwan, in consequence of his inability to suppress the frequent occurrence of cases of armed robberies which are happening in his district, and for leaving so many different cases of lawsuits unsettled.

H.E. the Viceroy has received instructions from the Ministry of Peking to select suitable Canton students to be sent to Peking to complete their education there. H.E. the Viceroy has instructed the Provincial Treasurer and the Provincial Examiner to notify the public of the fact and to hold an examination of students on the 27th instant, to select suitable candidates to send to Peking.

Canton, 23rd February.

The reports on the annual examination in the different schools and colleges have been forwarded to the Viceroy. H.E. expressed great satisfaction with the result, and has given authority to take out \$1,000 from Shau Hua Chu and to hand this sum to the Provincial Examiner, to be distributed among the successful candidates as an encouragement to their studies.

## A NAVAL YAMEN.

Admiral and Commander I. C. H. has made an inspection of the eastern section of the new bund intending to establish a yamen there for the convenience of carrying on his naval and military administration, and exercising general control of military affairs.

## YUET-HAN RAILWAY.

On the 23rd instant, a meeting of the Yuet-han Railway Company was held in the Railway Company's Office for the purpose of discussing the idea of submitting one copy of the register of shareholders and one copy of each of the registers of contributions collected by the different charitable institutions to the Government Railway Bureau for investigation. There were present some seventy people, among whom were members of the charitable institutions and merchants. At the meeting it was decided that as the account books of the company have been audited and everything found correct, and the company is to be under mercantile management, the books now asked for should not be submitted to the Bureau for investigation at all.

## OPIMUM SMOKERS DECAPITATED.

On the 18th instant, Captain Ha of the Sha Kok Fort, Boca Tigra, reported to the High Authority that some of the troops in that fort were in the habit of gathering together to smoke opium and asked for instructions to deal with them. Now the High Authority, being exceedingly annoyed with all the offenders, ordered that they should be executed in order that the Government regulations might be strictly obeyed.

## THE NEW BRIDGE.

Mr. Lau Cheung Hing, promoter of the Canton River Iron Bridge Company, has drawn up a plan and specification of the proposed iron bridge to be erected at Yau Lan Mun and has submitted a copy to H.E. the Viceroy for approval. The bridge is to be 1,320 feet in length and 40 feet in breadth. The Dutch Folly bridge is to be used as the foundation for the bridge.

## AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY.

Yesterday the Nankai Magistrate and the Brigadier-General of Kwangchow proceeded to Fatsan, to inquire into the cause of the suspension of business by the people there, on account of the levy of a new tax to provide that place with a proper organised police force.

## LIEUT. TARTAR GENERAL.

The Junior Lieutenant Tartar General Chun Ling, who was appointed to a position in Peking has decided to vacate his post some time this month and proceed to Peking to take up his new appointment.

## A NOTORIOUS ROBBER.

Chang Ho, a notorious robber, who had committed many cases of daring robbery, was captured in Hongkong and extradited to Canton under charge of Captain Yang the other day. He was a native of the Ching Yuen District. As there was an offer of three thousand dollars for his arrest, he absconded and took up his abode in Hongkong.

## A DISTINGUISHED FRENCH VISITOR.

Canton, 26th February.

A military officer attached to the French Legation at Peking arrived here a few days ago. Accompanied by the French Consul at Canton, he had an interview with H.E. the Viceroy, with whom he conversed for some time. The gentleman being an experienced military officer, H.E. sent some weiyuan to bring the visitor to the northern Parade Ground to watch the military students go through their drill. The visitors were full of admiration for the students.

## THE RIVER BRIDGE.

Yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, H.E. the Viceroy received an engineer from a firm of Hongkong and discussed with him matters concerning the proposed building of the iron bridge across the river. It is reported that this engineer has been recommended to H.E. by

H.E. Wu Ting Fang, who is at present with the Viceroy.

## A NEW THEATRE.

The building of the new theatre outside the eastern gate of the city at Chun Ling Hou near the new public garden has been completed and the Canton Bureau of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture has issued a notification calling for tender for the leasing of this new theatre.

## THE FATSAN TROUBLE.

The trouble in connection with the proposed levying of a new tax at Fatsan to fund that place with a proper organised police force, which caused the suspension of business in that town, has been satisfactorily settled by the Nankai Magistrate and the Brigadier-General of Kwangchow, who proceeded thither for the purpose yesterday. Business at that place has been resumed once more peacefully.

## FOREIGN SHOWS IN THE CITY.

For several times foreigners have applied to the authorities for permission and protection to open cinematograph and other shows in Canton, but have been refused by the native authorities. Recently a Frenchman who intends to open a cinematograph show in the western suburb, has applied to the Nankai Magistrate through his agent for the necessary permission and protection, but so far the Nankai Magistrate has not given him a reply.

## THE WATER POLICE.

Two boats for the Canton Water Police Force in the harbour limits are stationed at Wong Shui, and the other at Chun Ling Hou at the eastern section of the Bund. On account of the long period of residence at sea, many of the members of the force are suffering from swollen feet, and consequently are unfit for duty. Now the authorities have given instructions to appropriate \$6,000 from the collection of the tax on brothels for the purpose of building two stations on land instead of using boats.

## THE LIEUTENANT TARTAR GENERAL.

Yesterday a farewell dinner was given to the Lieutenant Tartar General Chun Ling in honour of his transfer and promotion, by a number of officials and the community of his native province residing at Canton.

## VILLAGE ROBBERY.

On the 5th instant, a gang of over 100 robbers violently entered the Ngun Yui Village in the Ho Shui District, ransacked 23 houses and carried away spoils to the value of over ten thousand dollars. The village soldiers were not in strong enough force to overcome their enemy and were compelled to retire with the result that one of their number was killed and several others wounded. Besides the booty the robbers also kidnapped and carried away with them one man and a child. The outrage has been reported to the authorities.

## RAILWAY AFFAIRS.

27th February.

The payment of the second instalment on the shares of the Canton-Hankow Railway Company was fixed at a recent meeting, for the present month, but owing to the delay in the election of a president, vice-president and some members of the board of directors, the collection of the second payment has been deferred to some future date. The company has telegraphed to various shareholders of the company, both at home and abroad, to that effect.

## WHAMPONG DOCKS.

The naval docks at Whampoa will be handed over by the Government to a company of officials and merchants, and vessels of all descriptions whether Government or private will be charged on the same scale for repairs.

## OFFICIAL CHANGES.

It is reported that important affairs at Honan require the services of the present Nankai Magistrate, and H.E. the Viceroy has appointed Tsoi Hsi-chi to take up the position, until his return. Owing to the death of his mother, the present Provincial Examiner Wu will go on leave and H.E. the Viceroy has appointed the Provincial Treasurer Wu to take up the position *pro tem*.

## "DON VOYAGE" DINNER.

It is reported that H.E. the Viceroy will invite Mr. F. J. Mayers, Commissioner of Customs, who will leave Canton soon, on "two years' leave," to a farewell dinner, at his yamen. Commander and Admiral Li Chun will also be present.

## OPIMUM IN THE ARMY.

The Viceroy has received from the Ministry of Army at Peking a despatch with regulations prohibiting the officers and troops from smoking opium. At present it is still found that many of the military officers and troops are addicted to the habit of taking the drug. Those who fail to get rid of the vice will be seriously dealt with, according to the instructions framed by the Ministry, and if any officers fail to report on the habits of their subordinates they will also be punished. Opium smokers are not to be enlisted as soldiers. The Viceroy will communicate with the Tartar General, the Commander-in-Chief and the officials of the Military Department, asking them strictly to enforce these regulations.

## AN UNSUCCESSFUL APPEAL.

Li Shai Kwei secretly returned to Canton a few months ago and petitioned the Viceroy to pardon him and to permit him to remain here. On inquiry the Viceroy found Li guilty of many cases of corruption and had given instructions to discover his whereabouts as well as to seize his property, if any, in Canton, and in his native province Kiangsu, at the same time. It is now stated that Li has again absconded from Canton.

## THE NEW GAOL.

It is reported that the Nankai Magistrate will not hand over the scale of his office until the completion of the construction of the new gaol building.

## NEW MARKET.

Owing to the high rate of rent charged for the stalls of the new market buildings in the old site of the Cheung Shun Monastery, the different stalls have been left unoccupied until alterations have been made. The stalls in the new buildings being now nearly all taken up, this new market will be opened on the 27th instant.

## KWANGCHOW GENERAL.

The newly-appointed Brigadier-General of Kwangchow, Pun Cheuk Man, will take over the seals of office from Wong Pui Tung about the 15th March next.

## RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

At 8 a.m. on the 25th instant when a man was going to Fatsan by land along the railway tracks, he was knocked down by a passing train and one of his legs was injured seriously. He was at once removed to the American Hospital and he is not expected to live.

## THE CANTON RIVER BRIDGE.

Canton, 28th February.

It is reported that the Canton River Iron Bridge Company will open the register of shares on the 11th proximo. The capital of the Company is to be \$1,000,000 in 100,000 shares of \$10 each and shares can be taken up by officials and the people.

## THE MINT.

The Canton Mint, which suspended work for the past three weeks, on account of the China

New Year holidays, has again resumed working to-day.

## CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

It is reported that H.E. the Viceroy has instructed Tsoi Hsi-chi to proceed to the various parts of the province to encourage the people to take up shares in the Canton-Kowloon Railway Company. As requested by the British Syndicate for the construction of the Canton-Kowloon Railway, the Ministry of Posts and Communications at Peking forwarded a despatch to H.E. the Viceroy asking him to inquire what subscriptions could be raised by the people of the Liang Kwang provinces. On receipt of the above despatch the Viceroy acted accordingly.

## VICEROY'S FORTHCOMING INSPECTION.

When the official seals are re-opened, H.E. the Viceroy will personally proceed on a tour of inspection to the different prefectures and districts, starting from the East River Districts. Preparations have been completed for his departure from Canton.

## H.E. WU TING FANG.

H.E. Wu Ting Fang has arrived here from Hongkong and is now temporarily residing at the Viceroy's yamen. H.E. Chow seems to be on good terms with him and often holds deliberations together on all public affairs especially on foreign affairs, but at present what matters are engaging their attention is not known.

## RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS.

H.E. the Viceroy will visit the Fong Yuen College on the 4th proximo, and the Silk Worm Rearing College and the Shen Hing College on the 8th proximo, the date of the re-opening of these institutions after the New Year vacation. All the colleges and schools, Government and private, will be re-opened about the same dates, and will be visited by the Provincial Treasurer, Provincial Examiner, Kwangchow Prefect, and the Magistrate of Nankai and Panyu.

## THE NEW THEATRE.

Tang Pang Ying and others of the Po Wah Company have sent an application to the Bureau of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce applying for the lease of the new theatre at Chung Hou, at the eastern section of the new bund, and stating that the company is prepared to pay an annual royalty of \$25,000. The officials of the Bureau have not granted their application, but the applicants are requested to increase the annual offer for the lease.

The day a case of larceny took place in the Viceroy's guards' department. Various articles to the value of over \$100 were taken away. The Nankai Magistrate has been instructed to look into the case and subsequent inquiries were made at the various pawnshops, to ascertain if the stolen articles have gone into their hands.

## THE AMERICAN BOYCOTT.

H.E. the Viceroy has again issued a proclamation prohibiting the American boycott feeling to be revived and has instructed the police to tear down and destroy any placard when found, and to stop the native press from publishing reports that tend to stir up the feeling of the public. So far there is no news about the boycott leader, Mr. Tai Son, who was arrested and put in custody since the 1st December for convening boycott meetings.

## DEAR RICE.

It is learnt from the different rice merchants that from the beginning of the Chinese New Year, one dollar buys 3 catties less rice than what could be procured at the end of last year. It is alleged that the rise in price of this commodity is due to two causes: storing up for speculation and exportation by merchants.

## WEI-SUNG LOTTERY REVIVED.

Canton, 1st March.

Since the abolition of the examination for the Ku Yun degree, there has been no Wei-sung lottery. But by special favour from the Throne three grand examinations were granted to select senior licentiates to be sent to Peking, where they will be educated for a few years more, and then be appointed to some positions after their course of study there. These examinations are the cause of the revival of the Wei-sung lottery. One of these special examinations was held last year, and shortly another will be held. A certain gentleman named Hu Man Wan has applied to the Viceroy for the monopoly to conduct the Wei-sung lottery for the coming examination, agreeing to pay a sum of \$255,000 and an extra royalty of \$100,000, total \$355,000. H.E. the Viceroy has approved of this application and has granted him the sole right of the lottery. The opening of this lottery will soon be announced.

## THE PUN YU MAGISTRATE.

It is reported that the new Pun Yu Magistrate will take over the seals of office on the first day of the 2nd moon.

## COST OF THE NEW BUND.

On receipt of a report from the Provincial Treasurer on the condition and account of the construction of the new Bund, the Viceroy gave a reply stating that the account of \$50,000, repaid by the contractors, Chan Lun Tai & Co. for the work done is greatly overcharged and that on investigation the sum of \$170,000 is found to be nearer the cost of the work. A sum of \$740,000 has been paid to the contractors and the latter, therefore, should refund to the Government the balance of \$170,000, after the deduction of the sum of \$170,000. The Provincial Treasurer is now instructed to order the contractors to refund the money within the space of ten days, and if the contractors fail to do so on the expiration of that period, the Provincial Treasurer is to confiscate all the contractors' properties, so as to make good the balance, or to deal with them severely for their alleged embezzlement. With regard to the officials of the Bund Department who failed to report on the unsatisfactory manner of the building of the bund, they should also be reprimanded by giving them black marks for neglect of duty, and the Provincial Treasurer is instructed, at the same time, call for other contractors for the construction of the bund and to have it finished at an early date.

## OFFICIAL AMENITIES.

It is the official custom that all the prefects and magistrates in the prefectures and districts have to come to Canton and pay a new year call to the high authority. H.E. the Viceroy, to avoid the trouble of his subordinates in so doing, ordered them not to adhere to the former custom.

## FIRE INSURANCE.

The fire of November last in the quarters of Chan Fong Nam and Shakes, opposite the Shamene, destroyed nearly two hundred buildings, of which most were brothels and hotels. Many of them have now been rebuilt, and on which fire insurance companies are unwilling to accept risks.

## CIGARETTE TRADE.

Owing to the large importation and consumption of foreign cigarettes, the native tobaccoists at Fatsan have suffered heavy losses within the past year or so.

## PROVINCIAL EXAMINER.

The position of Provincial Examiner which was held by Ton, who goes on leave on account of the death of his mother, is to be taken up temporarily by the Provincial Treasurer, Wu. The seal of office was handed over to the Provincial Treasurer to-day.

## PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

DR. J. M. ATKINSON ATTENDS SESSION.

The Manila *Cable* of 26th ult. says:—Dr. Kunoosuke Miyajima, delegate to the Philippine Islands Medical Association, arrived in Manila yesterday to attend the fourth annual session of the Philippine Islands medical association and is guest of Dr. Richard P. Strong.

Dr. Miyajima is chief of the biological department of the Japanese government laboratory at Tokyo, and is a graduate of the Imperial Japanese university and has studied at Johns Hopkins and other leading universities in America and is acquainted with the leading medical men of the world.

Dr. J. M. Atkinson, the honourable principal civil medical officer of Hongkong, who has just returned from Montreal, Canada, where he read a paper before the British medical association on measures against plague, will arrive in Manila Tuesday morning for the purpose of attending the meeting of the association, and will also be a guest of Dr. Strong during his stay in Manila.

Dr. Atkinson who is one of the leading medical men in the Orient, comes as a delegate from Hongkong Colony and will address the association on Thursday afternoon.

Dr. Siu Tien Pan, delegate from the Imperial Chinese Majesty's government, has arrived in Manila and is the guest of Dr. Tse Han Kee at 87 Calle Carvallo, Trozo. Dr. Siu will address the association on Saturday afternoon.

Dr. W. V. M. Koch, medical officer in charge of infectious hospitals, Hongkong, who was to address the association on Friday afternoon, will not be able to attend on account of the absence of Dr. Atkinson. The time assigned to Dr. Koch will be occupied by Dr. Paralytic Virgilio prepared for the association by Dr. K. Miura, professor of internal medicine in the Imperial Japanese University.

## THE INSURANCE SQUABBLE.

THE "MACAUS" INSURANCE CLAIM.

1st March.

At the Supreme Court, this morning, His Honour Sir Francis Pigott, Chief Justice, presiding, the case was continued in which O. Yan Tai brought an action against the Fook On Assurance and Godown Co., Ltd., to recover the sum of \$40,000 said to be due on an insurance policy on the s.s. *Macau*, which vessel was lost in the harbour in the September typhoon.

M. W. M. Slade, instructed by Mr. C. F. Dixon, appeared for the plaintiff, the defendant Co. being represented by the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson, of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master.

Evidence as to the value of the ship occupied the attention of the Court to-day.

## CHINESE IN ENGLAND.

MR. GERSHOM STEWART'S VIEWS.

Writing on this subject to the *Livingston Post*, Mr. Gershom Stewart, M.L.C., Hongkong, says:—

"The contention in your columns on the so-called defilement of this neighbourhood by the presence of a certain number of Chinamen is naturally full of interest both from a local and from an Imperial standpoint.

As one who lived for more than twenty years in the British colony of Hongkong I am grateful to Dr. Davis and Mr. Hathgate for their many and intelligent statements in your paper of to-day. The nature of some of the remarks made upon this subject in the public press against the Chinese people is, I venture to say, most unjust. With such an enormous population it is natural that there are undesirable and criminal Chinese, as there are undesirable and criminal members of every great race, but the standard of conduct in China is ethically as high as in any country, and to decry the whole people owing to the errors of a few is palpably unfair.

Dr. Davis does not admit the criminality of the Chinese, and he and the Chinese, who are despised justly, have a good character as a law-abiding people. The police records, however, can prove that point.

I quite agree that a great influx of Chinese labour is to be deprecated in this country from the point of view of taking employment from our own people; but in this case the public, as Mr. Bathgate points out, have the remedy in their own hands by boycotting the laundries. The Chinaman is an adept at trade combinations and he will not be deterred by the threat of being boycotted, and he cannot make a living honest, and if he cannot make a living honest, he will accept of any means, as he always does, with philosophy and resignation.

Many of the letters in your paper paint the Chinaman in the most lurid colours as filthy, like other people, but he is industrious, patient, cheerful and clean, when he has the chance of a wet rag and a little warm water. The lowest coolie washes his teeth, and the custom of shaving their heads keeps them from accumulating much dirt on their heads. One of the most common men who have lived for years among the Chinese, and while not blind to their faults, knows that their good qualities far outweigh their shortcomings. I hope that the two letters you publish to-day will go far to allay the strong and angry feelings which have been so freely expressed by others, who seem to think they are meeting an economic difficulty by stirring up a racial animosity, for which there is surely no necessity.

If there would have been a real aspect the Chinese would have been a blessing to the country. The Chinese would prefer to see no foreigners in China at all. If they could secure this by engaging never to emigrate I fully believe they would do so.

They would prefer to be without missionaries especially when they claim political power, not from religious intolerance, but because their presence sometimes causes disturbance.

Yet all these things are forced on them because they are a peaceful people and have no military strength. If they are coerced into military strength by being hammered by foreigners on all sides a development which certainly appears to be coming within the bounds of possibility, we shall probably listen to their side of the case with more attention.

Meanwhile, nothing is more likely to bring about the realisation of the ill-treatment and injustice to isolated bodies of Chinese pursuing peaceful vocations in other countries. The Chinese people are neither malignant nor vindictive, but they are eminently reasonable and logical. If the present Committee of Inquiry can show that the Chinese here are criminal and undesirable they can repatriate them with a free conscience, and if they prove their decision to be correct, the Chinese authorities might possibly behead all the delinquents without delay. But if they are not guilty of the awful crimes which are attributed to them the Chinese Government will be entitled to ask why these people are treated in this manner in a friendly country.

## THE RELIEF OF DISTRESSED STRANGERS.

PROPOSED ACTION AT KOBE.

The report of the work of the Seamen's Institute at this port during past year, which will be found in another column, says the *Kobe Herald*, may draw attention once more to the question of the best method of affording relief to the distressed but deserving foreigners who arrive not infrequently at Kobe and have no means of proceeding to places where better chances of obtaining employment are to be found. As our readers will see from the report, the amount of distress of this nature which calls for assistance is very markedly increasing, so much so that the resources of the Institute, which is the principal local medium for giving discriminating relief to destitute strangers, have been taxed to the utmost.

The Institute started the year with the substantial balance of ¥700, yet not only has this been entirely swallowed up, but it has been necessary to incur a considerable amount of debt in order to cope with work which could not be neglected, and it is estimated that additional financial help to the amount of at least ¥1,000 will be required during 1907. It has to be noted that the financial difficulties with which the Institute has had to contend are due entirely to the increase in the calls which have been made upon its resources, and not which it has received from the charitable public.

In fact, the past year was a record one in regard to the amount received by way of subscriptions and contributions, and in this connection it is worthy of mention that a substantial sum was obtained by collections from the crews of visiting ships, a very satisfactory proof of the high appreciation in which the Institute is held by those for whom it is primarily intended.

It is therefore quite clear that the need for relief is extending to such a degree that it will hardly be possible in the near future for the Institute to meet the demands upon it unless its resources are substantially augmented, the more especially since the constant growth of the port of Kobe in importance, is bound to lead to a permanent increase in the number of sailors and strays finding their way to this City.

It is doubtless with a realisation of the necessity of further progress being made for meeting this growing demand upon local charity, that the Kobe Ladies' Benevolent Society now proposes to establish a special fund for the purpose of assisting destitute strangers of deserving character. As has been said, there is no doubt that there is a real need for more adequate means of dealing with these unfortunate people. It will also be admitted by every one that the Ladies' Benevolent Society is an excellently managed organisation, which has done, and is doing, admirable work in its own special field, the support and assistance of destitute women and children.

It is further true, that it is an excellent thing that the Society and the Institute should work in friendly co-operation. Nevertheless, though commendable as is the spirit which has prompted the present proposal, we must confess to some doubts as to whether the Ladies' Benevolent Society is the most suitable medium through which a solution of the problem can be approached. It will have been noted from the Report which was presented at the annual meeting of the Society last month, that there has during 1906 a considerable falling off in the subscriptions received, so that the fund in hand were not more than adequate for carrying on the Society's particular line of work.

In view of this fact, it might appear that it would be wiser for the Society not to attempt at present to seriously enlarge the sphere of its operations. But, apart from the financial question, it is hardly quite clear why the work of providing means for assisting the destitute men who are stranded at this port should be imposed upon this Society. The Seamen's Institute already does a great deal of good work in this direction, and it would perhaps be a more fitting and natural policy to enable it to do somewhat extend its sphere by placing at its disposal a sufficiency of funds to deal with all real and urgent cases of distress. The present Superintendent of the Institute is a man with much experience in dealing with men of the class who mainly depend upon the Institute for their support, and a single organisation, by entrusting the work to a single organisation, would probably be avoided.

There is another consideration, which has to be borne in mind. What with the increased taxes, the rise in the cost of living, and the not inconsiderable demands which are already made upon their pockets for charitable or public purposes, the foreign residents here, however desirous to do their duty towards their unfortunate fellow-beings, cannot meet unlimited demands upon their purses. It is consequently worthy of consideration whether the best course would not be to concentrate effort upon placing the Seamen's Institute in a position to act as the Community's deputy in the relief of the destitute but deserving persons who arrive at this port, rather than to create a separate fund which could not achieve results of an adequate kind unless it attained pretty large proportions.

## THE MITSU BISHI DOCKYARD.

THE LABOUR TROUBLE.

Nagasaki advises state that threatening conditions still prevail among the employees at the Mitsui Bishi Dockyard there. One of the principal causes of the discontent is said to be the Company's declining to withdraw from the use of the ferry boats which have hitherto been at their disposal for going to or returning from work, the sum of five sen per day for a year being allowed them instead. Since Friday night, over one hundred of the men, mostly carpenters, have been holding secret meetings. The police have several times dispersed these gatherings, but the attendance at them becomes steadily larger. About half of the six hundred men employed at the dockyard are not attending to their work.

On Saturday morning, says the *Kobe Herald* of 18th ult., about one hundred and seventy of the employees were holding a secret meeting on Tategami-yama, when Mr. Kato, chief engineer of the Dockyard, with the Chief of the Umegasaki Police station, put in an appearance and induced the men to appoint delegates to state their grievances. A conference was then held between the delegates and the chief engineer, the latter eventually promising that a reply should be given to the men's representations in the course of a few days. The crux of the situation is said to be in the attitude of some five hundred carpenters. A number of the blacksmiths appear also to have been affected. About two hundred policemen were summoned yesterday from the neighbouring districts, but it is thought that there will not be any serious outbreak, as both the dockyard authorities and the police are making great efforts to check the agitation.

Mr. King, a bailman, was charged at the Marine Court on the 26th ult., and fined \$10 by the Magistrate-master, for disobeying an order by passing against a danger flag, endangering the lives of two divers who were at work at the time. Mr. E. J. F. Pearce, overseer, in the employ of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, was the complainant.

## JAPANESE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

HEAVY RATE CUTTING CAUSED BY COMPETITION.

According to investigations at the end of December, 1906, the business conditions of the leading Japanese fire insurance companies were as follows:—

Company	Policies issued.	Amount insured.
Nippon	191,236	¥1,175,264
Tokyo	148,394	¥7,955,890
Melji	50,532	¥61,522,087
Yokohama	69,511	¥19,270,771
Teikoku	143,717	¥100,180,233
Kyodo	13,979	¥31,522,3



although it was argued that, being an act relating to mercantile law, it was adopted by section 6 of Ordinance 4 of 1878. There is no register of trade marks in the Colony and no Order in Council has yet been made under section 104 of the Imperial Act of 1883 applying the provisions of the act to the Colony of the Straits Settlements. The owner of a trade mark in the Straits Settlements must therefore rely on his common law rights which are similar to those in force in England. Prior to the Trade Marks Registration Act in 1875, if he can prove a right of property in a trade mark by an exclusive and continuous use for a reasonable period, he is entitled to maintain an action for infringement and can obtain both an injunction and damages. Registration in this Colony is therefore merely strong presumptive evidence of exclusive use. Trade marks are registered and only British registered trade marks are noted or recorded at the desire of persons, but such had no legal effect, except that it would probably be accepted as evidence in a Court of Justice. The City Editor of *M.A.P.* recommended a broker to a correspondent. The broker proved an outsider, and never invented the client's money at all, but banked it in his wife's name. The correspondent sued the newspaper and got £1,400 back, the money the broker lost for him, on the ground that the editor was responsible for recommending to him an irresponsible broker. We hereby disclaim all responsibility for the above "exposition" of the law, if any patent agent or owner of a trade mark thinks fit to take any action in consequence of it.

#### AMERICAN YACHT IN PORT.

##### DUKE AND DUCHESS OF MANCHESTER ON BOARD.

The American steamer yacht *Margaria*, under the command of Captain J. A. Cushing, arrived here this forenoon from Singapore, which port she left on 24th ult. The yacht sailed from Cebu on November 21st and made a leisurely cruise in the Mediterranean. From there she visited the big ports of India. The owner of the vessel, Mr. J. H. Smith, with Mrs. Smith, is on board, with numerous guests, including the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, Miss Anita Stewart, Mr. G. C. Elliot and Dr. Keller Moody, the medical officer on board. While in Bombay the party "did" practically all the sights in the city and in the neighbourhood.

The *Margaria* is a very fine comfortable cruising yacht and was built at Greenock by Messrs Scott & Co. in 1901. Her dimensions are: length 100 ft. beam 36 ft. 6 in. and draught 17 ft. 6 in. Her highest speed is 18 knots—almost as fast as a first class cruiser—and her registered tonnage is 721 tons.

The destination and date of departure are at present uncertain. The Duke of Manchester was born in London in 1877, and soon after attaining his majority married the daughter of Mr. Eugene Zimmerman, of America. He owns about 70,000 acres in various parts of the British Isles, and is the proud possessor of priceless works of art, including pictures by Van Dyke, Titian, Holbein, Reynolds, Rubens and others. The young Duke is fond of outdoor recreation, especially hunting and shooting. It was only a month ago that Brampton Park, a historic mansion near Huntingdon, owned by the Duke of Manchester, was destroyed by fire. For nearly twenty years the house has been in the occupation of a tenant, Mr. Beasley. Valuable pictures, belonging to the Duke, and a great deal of furniture were removed.

#### THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND THE STRAITS CHINESE.

The Duke of Connaught requested His Excellency the Governor to forward the following message to the Chinese Community of Singapore:

I have received with great pleasure the addresses of welcome which the various sections of the Chinese Community of Singapore have presented to me and I learn with great satisfaction how highly the Chinese value the benefits conferred upon them by British Rule. Since the foundation of the Colony the Government has always placed the utmost confidence in the ability, integrity and good sense of the Chinese merchants and has granted to them the same freedom and the same rights of their business and the management of their private affairs as is enjoyed by Englishmen themselves. That this confidence has been well-deserved the present condition of the Colony and the progress which it has made since my previous visit clearly proves. In the Straits Settlements the Government and the people have worked together in harmony and the country consequently flourishes. I shall inform my brother, His Majesty the King-Emperor, of the sentiments which the Chinese have expressed to me. I learn that the Chinese New Year began three days ago. The Dukes and Duchesses are much gratified at a time of general holiday-making and relaxation the Chinese should have voluntarily undertaken for us the task of organising the procession which accompanied the gentlemen who presented addresses to us. We watched it with great interest.

We wish to the whole Chinese Community a happy and prosperous New Year.

(SD.) ARTHUR.

#### COMMERCIAL.

##### TO-DAY'S INTELLIGENCE.

Buyers.—National Banks \$51, Union Insurance \$30, China Fines \$38, Raub \$38, Shanghai Dock \$12, Hongkong Land \$17, China Provident \$30, Ices \$240 ex div. A. Watsons, \$12, Powells \$72, Steam Laundries \$52.  
Sellers.—Hongkong Bank \$39, Canton Insurance \$39, Hongkong Fines \$38, India China \$36, China and Manilla \$20, Douglas \$26, China Sugar \$26, Hongkong Dock \$31, Ices \$240 ex div. A. Watsons, \$12, Powells \$72, Steam Laundries \$52, Dairy Farms \$161, Cements \$212, Electric \$16, Kopes \$21, China Lights \$91.  
Sales.—Canton Insurance \$291, Hongkong Fines \$39, Hongkong Land \$123.  
Nominal.—Macao Steamboats \$30, Shell Transport \$31, Hongkong Wharf \$12, 222 (old), Tia 222 (new), Cottons \$12, Tramways \$215.

##### RAUB CRUSHING.

Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. inform us that they are in receipt of private telegraphic advices from Singapore informing them that the crushing of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ltd. for the past four weeks, yielded 1,162 lbs. smelted gold from 5,624 tons stone.

##### WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write on 1st inst. "The market continues dull and a very few shares have been recorded."  
Banks.—Sales have been effected of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank at \$89, at which rate more shares can be had.

Marine Insurance.—Canton have sellers at \$205. Union have changed hands at \$30 closing in demand at this figure.  
Fire Insurance.—Hongkong. Fires have found buyers at \$185, and shares are offering at \$185. Chinn Fires have been fixed at \$98 and are wanted at this price.  
Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamboats remain steady at \$30 at which rate sales have taken place. Indos continue out of favour at \$86. Shell Transporters are steady at \$36. Star Ferry old and new have buyers at \$30 and \$20 respectively.  
Refiners.—China Sugars have declined to \$175. Lurons are unchanged.  
Mining.—Chinese Engineering have improved to Tia 13 and sales have taken place at this rate. Raubs are wanted at \$8. We are informed by private telegraphic advices from Singapore, that the crushing for the past four weeks yielded 1,162 ozs. gold from 5,624 tons stone.

Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves are offering at \$94. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are quoted \$134 at the end of \$6 paid on the 26th inst. Shanghai Docks have declined to Tia 107 at which rate shares have been sold in the North. Hongkong Wharves have improved to Tia 235 with buyers for the old shares, and the new shares are quoted at \$225.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Hotels are steady at \$123. Hongkong Lands have improved to \$107 with sales at this rate, and close in request. Humphreys' Estates are procurable at \$114. Shanghai Lands are a shade firmer at Tia 102. West Points are on offer at \$50.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons have changed hands at \$12. Ewos are the same at \$12. Lau Kung Mows are weaker at Tia 13.

Miscellaneous.—China Providents are wanted at \$8.85. Green Island Cements have been done at \$14, and more shares can be got at this rate. Ices have advanced to \$240, at which rate they are in demand. Langkats are stronger at Tia 263. Sumatras have improved to Tia 107 with buyers. Central Stores remain unchanged, with buyers at \$161. The report of the directors of this company for the year ending December 31st, 1906, has been issued to shareholders. It includes the sum of \$7,712 brought forward from last account, and after allowing for directors' and auditors' fees, \$1,770.28 and loss on Municipal and Land Debentures, \$1,307.77 the net profit for the year amounts to \$5,634.75 which it is proposed should be apportioned in the following manner: To allow for depreciation on furniture, and alterations and improvements, the sum of \$4,000. To provide \$2,000 for bad and doubtful debts and to transfer \$1,000 to sinking fund. To pay a dividend of \$1.80 per share, amounting to \$1,307.77, leaving a balance of \$9,782.50 to be carried forward to 1907 account. It is notified that an extraordinary general meeting will be held at the Palace Hotel (Shanghai) immediately after the ordinary general meeting of the company on Friday, the 8th of March, the following resolutions will be brought forward: That the capital of the company be increased to \$75,845 by the creation of twenty thousand additional ordinary shares of \$15 each to be called "further new shares." That 10,000 of such further new shares be offered at par in the first instance to the members of the company being on the register on the 28th day of April, 1907, in the proportion of one further new share for every three existing shares held by them respectively. That such further new shares shall, from date of payment, rank for dividend and interest and be in all respects pari passu with the existing new issue of the company. That the remaining 10,000 of the 20,000 further new shares shall be issued at such time and upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall deem expedient.

##### FREIGHT MARKET.

Messrs. Lamko and Rogge report under date 23rd February:

Business during the interval has to some extent been influenced by the China New Year holidays, still a fair amount of chartering has come to pass and lately the demand is increasing, whilst tonnage is no longer freely supplied. It is a noteworthy fact that of tramp tonnage, 12, large size non-stationary tonnage, there is very little in Eastern waters at present and practically none of this class of boats open for coasting freights. Owners prefer fixing home-wards. A scarcity of tonnage is thereby making itself felt, and rates are unyielding.  
Of what may be termed coasting tonnage, two more Norwegian steamers, the *Pollux* and the *Gaea*, are mentioned as fixed homeward. Others, also Norwegians, have been time chartered off this coast for Australia, Cape and other trades, and by the opening of the northern ports next month further tonnage will be absorbed. The prospects therefore certainly are for fair business at better rates in not too far distant time.  
The Norwegian steamers *Dr. Hans Jurg Kjer* and *Pollux* have been sold.  
The *Pollux* is a local steamer, a local Norwegian firm supplies the following figures concerning Norwegian craft:

Number of steamers in Eastern waters  
1904/1905 ..... about 160  
Early 1906 ..... 124  
December 1906 ..... 64  
Per date ..... 44

Reviewing last fortnight's business it is to a large extent made up by fixtures from Saigon to this. There was some difficulty of placing tonnage for immediately after China New Year loading and charterers had to be met by 1 cent being taken after fixtures at 15 cents, but at the close there is demand again at the latter figure, option to Canton at 2 cents more being asked and generally given.

For China Coast ports, Swatow, Foochow, Shanghai and Tientsin, renewed inquiry has been showing and some negotiations have resulted in business; the details are, however, as yet kept private. For Japan the demand appears to have gone off for the present. For the Philippines there is just an indication of the possibility for business. For Singapore, Java and other Eastern ports no inquiries for tonnage have been placed here.

Hongkong.—Inquiries for outside tonnage have not been heard of.  
Rangoon.—Further demand for boats to load Rangoon to Japan, yet nothing doing locally.

Java.—Some chartering done here for from 2 to 3 ports North Coast dry and wet sugar for this prompt and fairly prompt loading, rate about 30 cents.

The North.—Reports from the North continue unfavourable pending the opening of New Year and Tientsin next month.  
Coal freights from Japan.—To Canton about \$1.70/1.75, quoting to this port business done from Kuchino at \$1.15. At same rate tonnage may be placed to load at Wakamatsu, light draft boats only. Kuchino to Hongkong, early March, a fixture at \$1.45.

Hongkong.—The holidays over, the mines are now resuming business and there may be further charters shortly.

Monthly.—The charter of s.s. *Progress*, 687 tons net reg. to natives at \$3,500 for 1 month, option 1 month, immediate commencement, is reported. We also hear of the fixture of a Norwegian s.s. *Dagmar*, 882 net reg. 8 months from March, \$4,600 per ton to natives.  
Salt tonnage loading or to load.—None.  
Salt tonnage discharged.—None. Departures

of Sallert.—Amer. ship *E. B. Sutton* left for Baltimore on the 16th February.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Mr. Tokichi Tanaka has been appointed consul (*de corriere*) of Japan at Hongkong.

The following details joined this station on the 26th ult., per s.s. *Kulsang* from Calcutta: 24 men, 120 lb. Baluchis.

38 Rank and File, 3 Followers, 19th Infantry, arrived from Bombay per s.s. *Macedonia* on 21st February, 1907, to complete strength.

The stone wharf opposite Observation Place, Praya East, is declared to be public wharf and shall be known by the name of Observation Street Wharf.

Lieutenant A. Guit, Inspector of Army Schools, proceeded on Inspection Duty, to Mauritius, Colombo, and Singapore, per s.s. *Deva* on 23rd ult.

Leave of absence to England, on urgent private affairs, has been granted to Captain C. G. Verker, Royal Garrison Artillery, from 30th March to 30th September, 1907.

Owing to indisposition, Mr. F. A. Hazeland, first Police Magistrate, he was unable to preside at the Police Court on the 23rd ult. The daily cases were taken by Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne.

The *Eastern Times* states that the Peking Government has telegraphed to H.E. Ting Chiao, Viceroy of the Yuan-Kwei provinces, to throw open Yunnan to foreign trade without delay.

A NAGASAKI telegram states that a Russian squadron, consisting of the battleships *Tsura-vitch* and *Slava*, and the cruiser *Rogatory*, bound for the Far East, left Cadix for Gibraltar a few days ago.

The Chinese Engineering & Mining Co.'s total output of the Company's three mines for the week ending February 9, 1907, amounted to 7,750, 17 tons and the sales during the same period to \$5,622.22 tons.

A VAGRANT beggar, known by the name of Findley, who died in Ohio, America, from exposure, has been identified as Count Cronhjeld, a Swede, to whom without his knowledge, £30,000 has just been bequeathed.

LANCER-Sergeant Timms, of the Naval Yard Police, charged three boatmen before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, on the 1st inst., at the Police Court, with dredging in the man-of-war anchorage on the 28th ult. without permission from the Naval authorities. They were fined \$10 each.

A PRIVATE letter from Yuyuan in the Central China Famine district from one of the Catholic Fathers states that every day when going out into the streets he saw women and children lying on the ground either dead or dying, and that the distress of the people was growing more intense.

TUNG TAK, a prisoner in Victoria Gaol, who was yesterday (2nd ult.) charged before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court, with cutting and wounding another prisoner in gaol, under circumstances already reported in these columns, was late yesterday afternoon committed to stand his trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

The Viceroy of Minche Provinces has wired that owing to great loss sustained by the naval Dockyard, it would be well that the same shall be made a commercial undertaking. The Viceroy hopes to appoint Chen Pao-shen, the Director, and Hu Kuolien, the Associate Director, and has already raised two million taels for the purpose.

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 8 of 1906, entitled An Ordinance to authorize the construction and maintenance of certain Naval and Military Works upon and over certain portions of the Crown land-estate and sea bed situated upon the Harbour frontage of the City of Victoria, in this Colony.

ON the 1st inst. the Opium Farmer established premises at Nos. 223 and 225, Des Voeux Road Central and No. 112, Connaught Road Central, as a bonded warehouse for the use of dealers in morphine and compounds of opium imported for exportation and not for use, or sale, in the Colony. The use of the premises at Nos. 56, 58 and 40, Bonham Strand West, as a bonded warehouse will be discontinued.

ANOTHER street coolie, one Man Wai, on the 23rd ult. fell a victim to the temptation afforded by the gleaming gold car-pin, glittering in the hair of a Chinese lady, in Wanchai. There was the usual rush, the hand on the lady's head, the pin gone, the hue and cry, the arrest, the plea of guilt, and the sentence of six weeks' hard labour and four hours' stocks. And then Mr. Hazeland sat back to wait for the next.

A CHINESE shopkeeper, who was charged before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court on the 23rd ult., with obstructing a footpath by leaving goods there, pleaded guilty to the charge. "But," he continued, "I would like to voice as a solicitor!" "If you want to engage a solicitor," said his Worship, "I cannot stop you, but I don't see what use a solicitor can be to you when you have already pleaded guilty." The case was adjourned.

The Nippon Kerosene Oil Refining Company, which is now being organised with the object of refining coarse kerosene oil by a method invented by Mr. Nagaiwa of Osaka, has for promoters a number of kerosene oil merchants of Osaka, and it has been decided to establish a refinery at Osaka. The capital of the Company is 1,000,000 yen. Of the 20,000 shares, 15,000 will be owned by the promoters and the remaining 5,000 offered to the public. The subscription list will be open from February 11 to 25.

The summons against the coxswain of the steam launch *Jack Lee* who was summoned some days ago by P. C. Berrie, of the Water Police, for playing the launch in the harbour without a licence, and failing to stop when called upon to do so by the police, was concluded at the Police Court, on the 25th ult. Mr. Hazeland found the accused not guilty on the first charge. On the second count he fined him \$4. The *Jack Lee* is at present being overhauled, as according to report she is in an unseaworthy condition at present.

STAFF Sergeant E. Norton, of Mount Austin Barracks, charged three men before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court, on the 27th ult., with theft. The men were alleged to have stolen a quantity of firewood from the barracks. Tain Tau, a coolie, of Tai Hang Village, was charged with stealing \$3 worth of the wood, Lai Lin, of No. 71, Queen's Road East, was alleged to have appropriated \$1 worth, and Lau San, of No. 52, Second Street, was reported to have got away with \$7 worth of the wood. They denied the charge, and the case was remanded for further inquiries to be made.

It is notified that the Rifle Meeting of the C.U.S.R.A. will be held on 18th of March and following days.

RETURN of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 24th February, 1907.—Library, non-Chinese, 178; Chinese, 80; Total, 258. Museum, non-Chinese, 134; Chinese, 375; Total, 509.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased, in accordance with instructions from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to appoint Lieut. C. W. Beckwith, R.N., to be assistant harbour master, with effect from the 1st instant.

The appointment of Mr. Basil Taylor, Commander, R.N., (retired), as harbour master, marine magistrate, emigration and customs officer, registrar of shipping, superintendent of gunpowder depot, collector of light dues, and superintendent of imports and exports in this Colony, takes effect from the 1st instant.

LAST month a circular emanating from the directorate was sent out to the shareholders of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Company to the following effect:—We expect the Government will pay the amount due to the Company, viz. the award, by the end of June, and we shall distribute to shareholders about \$700 per share—balance to follow later on. Do you wish to be paid in London at 2/4 or in Singapore?

FUNG SHIH, a coolie, who was sent to gaol a few weeks ago for theft, was identified in the Victoria Gaol yesterday, by an Indian warder, as having returned from banishment. On being released from gaol this morning he was arrested on the charge—Fung was deported from the Colony on the 3rd June, 1902. On being arraigned before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court, this morning, he was ordered to do four hours in the stocks and to go "in" for another term—twelve months.

A BUTCHER named Leung Pin, residing at No. 21, Temple Street, Vau-mat, was before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, at the Police Court, this morning, on a charge of ill-treating one of the Steam Laundry Company's goats, at Ho-mant, yesterday afternoon. The goat had to be destroyed. According to the evidence of an Indian watchman in the employ of the Laundry, who had witnessed the act, the defendant, who was passing the works at the time, saw the goat on the side of the road. Picking up a stick he struck the goat, breaking one of its hind legs. His Wo ship fined accused \$25, which was paid.

LAM FOK, a ricksha coolie, of vehicle No. 166, was this morning, at the Police Court, sentenced to fifteen days' hard labour and four hours' stocks for robbing Man Wismann, a petty officer, S.M.S. *Planet*, of \$15, on Thursday night, at Wanchai. Wismann and two other shipmates engaged rickshas and drove to Wanchai. On arriving at their destination Wismann took out his pocket book to pay his ricksha when his coolie (the defendant) snatched the purse, handed it to another ricksha coolie, who got away. Accused made an attempt to follow him, but was seized by Wismann and his chums. The money has not been recovered.

MR. JACK McCalliffe appeared before Commissioner Howard at the Singapore Court of Requests on 11th February, on a judgment notice to explain why he had not paid Mr. E. G. Willis the \$30 due him for wages, for which Mr. Willis had secured judgment with costs. Mr. McCalliffe said that he had no money and had been compelled to sell all his things to secure funds with which to buy food. He had hoped to secure funds through an entertainment he was giving at Jubilee Hall during the recent visit of the fleet, but the vessels left before the show could come off. The Commissioner ordered him to pay by the 28th inst. or to go to gaol for three weeks.

A MEETING of the Justices of the Peace was held at the Magistrate's on the 26th ult., Mr. F. A. Hazeland presiding, for the purpose of considering an application for the transfer from R. Mathaiy to Ernest Granville Jordan the publican's licence to sell by retail intoxicating liquors on premises numbered 39-44, Elgin Road, Kowloon, under the sign of "The Occidental Hotel." The other Justices present were Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, second police magistrate, Mr. E. L. Bodeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, and Mr. J. Craig, assistant superintendent of Victoria Gaol. The police had no objection to the transfer being made and the application was granted unanimously.

"If I only knew that it belonged to a policeman I'm certain I would not have touched it," said a coolie at the Police Court, this morning, when he was charged with stealing a boat hook, and attempting to steal a policeman's trousers which was hung out to dry at No. 2 Police Station, yesterday. Accused while pointing out the trousers, said, "The trousers were hanging from the verandah. He disappeared and returned with a good-sized boat hook and was busily engaged in trying to bring down the pants when he was caught. He thought it was a huge joke when he was called upon to answer the charge. He pleaded guilty, by mistake it appeared, for when Mr. Melbourne passed sentence of fifteen days' hard labour and four hours' stocks, accused said he "thought he would plead not guilty now." He was removed.

This office is in receipt of several hand-books, issued by the Hamburg Amerika Linie, which in their *tour ensemble* and general arrangement, have quite broken away from the beaten track generally pursued in arranging their brochure for publication. Those under notice show that the greatest care has been given to their preparation, both as to the letterpress as well as to the photographic illustrations, which certainly appear to be the very best procurable and are equal to anything in this line we have so far come across. One of the books gives a very fine idea of the unsurpassed accommodation provided by this Company's lieutenants, while the others provide a perfect panoramic view of the Mediterranean coast, and are an education in themselves. Compilers, printers and publishers alike are to be congratulated on these very handsome productions.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing to the *Ceylon Independent*, regarding the proposed appointment of the Hon. Mr. F. H. May to Ceylon as Lieutenant Governor, says:—Does it not seem very absurd to note the way the evening papers go completely crazy over every new appointment to Ceylon. Look at last evening's *Observer* on poor Mr. May. "He is on the right side of 50. But what we hope is that he combines with all these (poor, boring, racing, &c.), in themselves not unsatisfactory qualities and blessings (mark the word "blessing"—quite Pecksniffian) a capacity and thorough inclination for hard work at the desk." Poor Mr. May! He is to be cheered by his desk and must not forget to say his prayers every morning. Then comes another gratuitous piece of impertinence transcending in this quality all that precedes it. "But while welcoming Hon. Mr. F. H. May to this Colony, we much regret that he knows nothing at first hand of other colonies beside the limited area of Hongkong!"

Two stall-holders of the Central Market were summoned at the Police Court, on the 1st inst., by the Inspector of Weights and Measures, F. Withers, for being in possession of scales which were not of the standard weight. They admitted the charge and Mr. Melbourne fined them \$10 each.

We have received the following notification from the Colonial Secretary's Office on the 1st inst.:—Information has this day been received from H.M. Consul at Bangkok to the effect that vessels arriving from Hongkong will have to complete ten days on account of plague before entering a Siamese port.

POLICE Constable (Clarke, of the Water Police Station, summoned the master of the steam launch *Keng Shaw* before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court, on the 1st inst., for failing to carry the regulation lights while playing in the waters of this Colony on the night of the 25th ultimo. A fine of \$25 was passed.

A PEKING letter states that the Empress Dowager was lately very anxious to get H. E. Tieh Liang to return to the Grand Council from which he was dismissed last summer, but Tieh Liang's duties as President of the Ministry of War are now so arduous that he has refused the appointment—out of spite, as some will have it.

£5, 000,000, according to a northern contemporary, have been spent within the last two years on munitions of war for the Peiyang army, and of this sum Tia 2,000,000 have been spent in Japan and Tia 1,000,000 in Germany, while the balance has been divided between Great Britain, France, Belgium and Austria-Hungary.

AMONG the recipients of presents from H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught at Singapore are Mr. D. K. Somerville, who places his fine motor car at the disposal of the Royal Family, and has a pair of sleeve links as a souvenir. Mr. J. A. Hamilton, who also drove the Duke and Duchess about, receives a pretty cigarette case with the Duke's cipher on it.

ONE of the most acceptable offers presents has been issued by Messrs. D. and J. McCallum, of Edinburgh, the well-known distillers of "Perfection" whisky fame. It takes the form of a blotter, with diary and note-pad attached and should certainly commend itself to recipients. Messrs. H. Price & Co. are the agents in Hongkong for the distributing firm and the gift should unquestionably give a fillip to the brand they purvey.

TELEGRAPHIC protests are still being received from the Japanese in Hawaii and California in regard to the proposed new immigration agreement. The *Asahi* in discussing the proposals, expresses the hope that no retaliatory restrictions will be imposed by Japan, but points out in regard to Americans employed in Japan that it may be desirable to exercise more strict regulations than those which are already in force and are quite reasonable.—*N. C. D. News.*

THE *N. C. D. News* learns from a private letter from Liaoyang dated February 6 that refugees from the Kiangpoh famine district were beginning to arrive there. No mention is made as to their numbers, or whether their arrival there is in any way an indication that the Chinese Government is seeking to put into action the plan mooted some time ago of sending the famine-stricken people to settle in the vast plains of Manchuria.

MR. C. A. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court, on the 25th ult., imposed a fine of \$15, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment, on the owner of the steam-launch *Zee Fai* for allowing his launch to run in the waters of the Colony without having on board a certificated master. The person who had control of the launch when the police boarded it last week was no other than a man whose certificate was recently suspended by the Harbour-master.

A NEW Government notification, declaring Hongkong an infected port, has been issued at Bangkok. Vessels from Hongkong have now to stop at the quarantine anchorage at Koh Phra, and before receiving pratique must stay there until a period of ten full days shall have elapsed from the time of leaving port, or until released by the Health Officer. Vessels from any port in China have to call at Koh Phra and undergo medical inspection. The new notification is due to cases of plague having been imported into Bangkok from Hongkong.

H. E. TANG is now so depressed that he has decided to send in his resignation as Senior Vice-President of the Yuchingpu and Acting Junior Vice-President of the Waiwupu (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) after the Chinese New Year. The results of such a step should be known before the end of the current month or at the beginning of March. It is believed in Chinese official circles that H. E. Tang would be permitted to resign his responsible appointments if he sends in his resignation, because he has lost favour with the Empress Dowager and the Manchu Government, and that he will follow the example of H. E. Wu Tang-fang (formerly Chinese minister to the U.S.A.), who resigned his post and returned to Canton several months ago.—*N. C. D. News.*

CUSTOMS Baggage Inspector "Nick" Carter upheld his nickname Saturday morning, says the *Manila Times* of 25th ult. He ferreted out P533 Conant pesos and two Mexican pesos from a pile of Chino baggage. During the usual examination of outgoing baggage "Nick" spotted a Chino charcoal stove of the ordinary type, about ten inches high and twelve inches in diameter. Upon lifting one side it seemed a little heavier than a little steel stool ought to be. He turned it upside down. Nothing rattled but there was a suspicious lot of newspaper tucked into the ash compartment running around the bottom edge. Then he dug in. Out came a package of fifty silver pesos and when the sleuth hand finished there were 533 of them and two Mex. It took no end of shaking and poking to get them all out as they were tucked away in every corner.

A FIRE which broke out in Tung Loi Lane at half-past three o'clock this morning (1st inst.) did considerable damage to two buildings and kept the fire brigade busy for some little time. Tung Loi Lane, it will be remembered, was the scene of a most disastrous fire which broke out on the morning of the 2nd ultimo, during which six lives were lost. The building which took fire this morning is the one adjoining the house which was destroyed during the outbreak of the 2nd ultimo. The fire travelled most rapidly and invaded a second building before the brigade, which was in charge of Chief Inspector Baker, could do anything to save the building. Seeing this, steps were taken to stop the flames from spreading to the other houses in the block. In this the fire-fighters were successful and the fire was extinguished, leaving the two buildings entirely gutted. The police have their suspicions as regards the origin of the fire, and consequently they have detained about a dozen persons pending the result of an investigation, which is to follow. The building where the fire originated, so we are informed, was only tenanted three days ago for \$4,000.

Two painters, employed in a carpenter's shop at No. 50, Gilman Street, got into a quarrel yesterday (27th ult.), and a fish knife was brought into use. The quarrel was over a debt which Pan owed. Pang Hang demanded the money yesterday evening and he was struck. A fight naturally followed, during which Pan picked up a knife and slashed his competitor on the arm. The wound was not serious. He was arrested. Accused was arraigned before Mr. C. A. D. Melbourne, at the Police Court, this morning, on a charge of assault, and on pending guilty was fined \$10 and bound over to keep the peace for three months.

TO IM, a tailor, residing at No. 14, Cochrane Street, was arraigned before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, on the 26th ult., at the Police Court, on a charge of forgery. He was arraigned on a firm at No. 215, Wing Lok Street and obtaining three boxes of mushrooms, valued at \$400, under false pretences; forging the said order; entering another forged order and obtaining the goods on two different days—22nd and 25th ult. Detective-Sergeant Murlison made the arrest. A plea of not guilty was entered by the defendant and the case was set for further hearing.

TO IM, a tailor, residing at No. 14, Cochrane Street, was charged on remand before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, on the 26th ult., at the Police Court, with uttering a forged order on a firm at No. 215, Wing Lok Street and obtaining three boxes of mushrooms, valued at \$400, under false pretences; forging the said order; entering another forged order and obtaining the goods on two different days—22nd and 25th ult. After evidence was heard the defendant was committed to take his trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

THE gamblers were out for a good time yesterday (4th ult.); they are "in" for having it, to-day or rather, for not having the means to pay their fines, as ordered by Mr. F. A. Hazeland when presiding at the Magistrate. A large number of these lovers of chance were arrested by Sergeant Gordon in the servant quarters at the Tai Tai "house," at West Point, when a heterogeneous mass of cooks, boys, and house coolies were taken. They had nothing whatever to say, and Mr. Hazeland fined the leaders \$25 each, and the gamblers \$30 *per cap.* Another lot were the quarry of a lunkon on duty in Clarence Street, who gathered in a gang of street gamblers. Mr. Hazeland let these off with fines of \$2 each.

HARDLY a day passes now without some seizure of opium being recorded by the Customs Department which now has to perform the duties formerly attended to by the Opium Farmer as far as the river is concerned. An inspecting officer who boarded the *Pittanuk* found in the water container, in the cook's galley, twenty tins of opium carefully secreted. Then a few hours later 120 tins of opium were found on board a small junk in the river which had come up from Chantaboon bay. The Customs authorities have not as yet been able to get into full working order, but when they do it is hoped that the amount of smuggling which goes on as far as the port of Bangkok is concerned, will be very materially reduced.—*Bangkok Times.*